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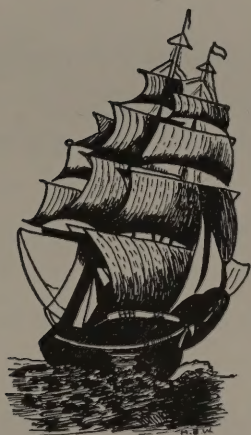


# THEY TOOK TO THE WATERS

The Forgotten Mineral Spring Resorts of New Jersey  
and Nearby Pennsylvania and Delaware

*By*

HARRY B. WEISS AND HOWARD R. KEMBLE



*"Let us hoyst up more Sayles,  
and Launch into other seas"*

THE PAST TIMES PRESS  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

1962

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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 62-8847



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Limited Edition



## INTRODUCTION

The great mineral water age, not only of New Jersey and the Delaware Valley of Pennsylvania but of the nation as well, came to an end during the early 1900s, and although traces of it linger on it is doubtful if it will ever be revived. Over a period of more than 150 years it germinated, expanded, flourished and gradually withered. The present work is an account of these processes in New Jersey and the Delaware Valley with details that have never been gathered together before. The period of bathing and drinking at the springs was succeeded by one during which bottled water was consumed at home and in restaurants. By 1905, over 47,000,000 gallons of spring water from over 700 springs, with a value of almost \$7,000,000, were sold annually in these United States. About this time the increasing pollution of rivers was in part responsible for the large consumption of spring water, although during earlier times its medicinal value was exploited. About six-sevenths of the output of New Jersey's springs was used for table purposes in 1905, and only the remainder for medicinal uses. From 1890 to 1905 the consumption of mineral water in the country reached mammoth proportions. An endless supply of all kinds burdened the market, much of it of no more value to health than tap water.

Some of New Jersey's mineral spring resorts were referred to quite early, as for example, Tinton Falls Mineral Spring in 1749, Schooley's Mountain Mineral Spring in 1763, and the Woodbridge Spa in 1772. Schooley's Mountain, Orange Springs, and Newman Springs (near Red Bank) were fashionable resorts with large hotels. All, however, both large and small, were visited by large numbers of people for the health-giving qualities of their waters. In Pennsylvania, Yellow Springs of Chester County was known as early as 1722, and the chalybeate waters of the Bristol springs even earlier, or in 1700. Mention was made of the Abington waters in 1768, and of those of Philadelphia and Harrowgate around 1773.

Resort therapy, deservedly or not, is a thing of the past. Its importance at one time in the social economy of the people is demonstrated by the accounts herein presented. The numerous details are included because the authors are interested in historical minutiae. "Small sands the mountain, moments make the year."

During the course of our glances into the past we enjoyed and are thankful for the generous help given to us by the following residents of New Jersey: Mrs. Grover C. Apgar, Pleasant Grove; Raymond Archut, Woodbury; Mrs. Clifford A. Baldwin, Merchantville;



Raymond Bancroft, Collingswood; Daniel W. Beckley, Woodbury; David K. Bennett, Collingswood; Miss Louise Blake, Schooley's Mountain; Louis P. Booz, Perth Amboy; Irving C. Bowne, Schooley's Mountain; Watson C. Buck, Rancocas; Miss Ruth Dannefelser, Morristown; Dr. Henry B. Decker, Camden; Gaza DeVegh, Tinton Falls; James R. Duff, Collingswood; the late George H. Eckhardt, Hammonton; Mrs. Helen Markley Eckhardt, Montclair; the late Nathaniel R. Ewan, Burlington; Mrs. Edgar B. Gibbs, Clementon; Joseph F. Gray, Flanders; Mrs. Maud H. Greene, Bloomfield; Mrs. Kathryn B. Greywacz, Trenton; Miss Helen Elizabeth Heyl, Mount Holly; Mrs. Rowland W. Hill, Collingswood; Prof. Joseph C. Horvath, New Brunswick; Dr. Glenn L. Jepson, Princeton; Miss Helen Fuller Lyell, Camden; Harry Marvin, Mullica Hill; Mrs. Elizabeth Moore, Doylestown; John D. F. Morgan, Haddonfield; J. Harold Nunn, Hackettstown; J. H. Oram, Jr., Rockaway; Mrs. Mary D. Otter, Lumberton; Lubin Palmer, Schooley's Mountain; Adeline Pepper, Summit; Dr. Charles A. Philhower, Westfield; Miss M. Virginia Regenthal, Scotch Plains; Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Roberts, Browns Mills; Dr. Henry L. Savage, Princeton; Mrs. Howard C. Sayre, Trenton; Donald A. Sinclair, New Brunswick; Charles Skinner, Schooley's Mountain; Herbert F. Smith, New Brunswick; Ione M. Sonn, East Orange; the late Harry Stelter, Schooley's Mountain; Mrs. D. Tice Stokes, Collingswood; Miss Miriam V. Studley, Newark; Mrs. Frank Herbert Tefteau, Haddonfield; Mrs. Minor B. Tilton, Red Bank; W. I. Tomlinson, Kirkwood; Norman C. Wittwer, Oldwick; Dr. Kemble Widmer, Trenton; Capt. Charles I. Wilson, Pennsauken; Mrs. Aline K. Wolcott, Riverton; and Edward C. Yerpe, Collingswood.

Our thanks are also extended to the following residents of Pennsylvania: Edward B. Barnsley, Newtown; Mr. and Mrs. Perry A. Bond, New Hope; Hugh B. Eastburn, Bristol; Louise Jones, West Chester; Milton Kenin, Philadelphia; Dr. Igho H. Kornblueh, Philadelphia; Mrs. Mabel Niemeyer, Doylestown; Dr. Alfred G. Petrie, New Hope; Catharine B. Sutterley, Philadelphia; and to Mrs. J. Warren Coleman, Lakewood, Ohio; Lawrence B. Romaine, Middleboro, Massachusetts; and C. A. Weslager, Hockessin, Delaware.

We are also greatly indebted to the following historical societies and libraries. In New Jersey: Atlantic County Historical Society; Burlington County Historical Society; Camden County Historical Society; Gloucester County Historical Society; Haddonfield Historical Society; Monmouth County Historical Society; New Jersey Historical Society; Warren County Historical Society. In Pennsylvania: the Bucks County Historical Society; Chester County Historical Society; The Historical Society of Pennsylvania; The Historical Society of Montgomery County. Libraries: Camden County Library; Camden County Bar Association Library; Rutgers University Library, New



Brunswick and Camden; The Public Library of Newark; The Morristown Library; Hackettstown Public Library; Haddonfield Public Library; Princeton University Library; State Library, Trenton; The New York Public Library; University of Pennsylvania Library; the Library Company of Philadelphia.

In addition we were helped by The Medical Society of New Jersey, the American Medical Association, Chicago, Illinois; and the National Library of Medicine, Washington, D. C.

H. B. W. and H. R. K.





## CHAPTER I

### Mineral Springs, Uses and Action of Their Waters

#### Mineral Springs

In Europe mineral springs were long and favorably known before they were thought of in this country, except perhaps by the Indians. In fact since the beginning of history, mankind has had a deep and fascinating interest in springs which during ancient times appeared to have a mysterious origin, in addition to their thirst quenching and supposed healing virtues. The classical writers, including Aristotle (384-322 B.C.), believed that springs and rivers issued from enormous caverns within the earth. Anaxagoras (500-428 B.C.) taught this belief and Plato (429-347 B.C.) was of the opinion that from a water-filled cavern within the earth, rivers issued forth and returned. It was believed that water was raised by the sun and descended in the form of rain where it collected below the earth's surface and flowed as rivers from one or more large reservoirs. Water that issued from the earth in the form of springs, according to Aristotle, was made up in part of rain water that had percolated into the crust of the earth and in part of water formed by the condensation of air within the crust of the earth and also in part from condensed vapors arising from a place not defined. These waters did not collect in underground reservoirs but were held within highlands and mountains. These views were enlarged upon and developed into more detail by various writers in an attempt to explain all the phenomena connected with the origin of springs and rivers and their flow. During the Middle Ages, Holy Writ exercised its authority and the water from the oceans passed into the earth by way of concealed channels, ascended to the surface and then flowed back into the oceans. "The virtue of the heavens" pulled the water up through the earth.

The observations of Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), Bernard Palissy (c. 1510-1589), Vallisnieri (1661-1730), and others demonstrated that the water from rain and melting snow on the mountains ran off the surface as brooks and rivers and that some entered the earth passing under impervious strata to emerge at lower levels when the overlying stratum was interrupted by a break. Because of the disbelief of the early observers that rainfall supplied an enormous quantity of water, that the earth's surface was covered by a vast expanse of ocean from which evaporation raised a great volume of water, knowledge of the true origin of springs and rivers was long

delayed. As a result of accurate observations and measurements it has been found that rainfall is more than adequate to supply the rivers with water and that evaporation frees ocean water from its salt. It is accepted now as definite that springs and rivers originate in rain, snow and other kinds of watery precipitation which fall upon the surface of the earth. Part runs off the surface as brooks and rivers. Part sinks into the earth to form ground water and may emerge again as springs at lower levels. And part rises as vapor into the air.<sup>1</sup>

Springs are subterranean streams that discharge at the surface of the earth. They may be classified broadly as geysers, seepage springs, springs from specific underground streams, and fissure springs issuing from a fault or fracture in the earth's crust "accompanied by a displacement of one side of the fracture with respect to the other and in a direction parallel to the fracture." Underground streams are usually supplied with fresh waters from rain and melted snow which enter the soil and accumulate at some depth in the strata. The water level of such accumulations of ground water parallels more or less the surface of the ground except under hill summits where it recedes from it. Beneath valleys the water level gets close to the ground surface. If a valley is steep the ground water may come to the surface and emerge as a spring. A spring is also born when the percolating waters meet an obstruction in the shape of an impervious layer of clay or sand which prevents the waters from descending any further and causes them to follow the compact stratum until they come to the surface on the slope of a hill. Water that penetrates soil and rocks becomes charged with dissolved minerals and organic materials. It has pronounced solvent qualities because of its carbonic acid content. Such spring waters usually contain different solids in solution such as carbonate, sulphate, or muriate of lime, and salts of iron, sodium, potassium and magnesium. When the water has dissolved an amount of such materials sufficient to give it a distinctive character of its own, it becomes a mineral water, although no sharp line can be drawn between mineral waters and potable waters. Mineral waters may also contain solids and gases. In this country the term mineral water is commonly applied to any bottled spring water that is used as a beverage, or for medicinal purposes. It may be hot or cold, effervescent or not, and used externally or internally whether it is saline, alkaline, ferruginous, siliceous or sulphuretted. The most common minerals found in mineral waters are potassium, magnesium and calcium, and iron, sodium, chlorine and sulphur in various combinations.

Some springs run continuously; others are intermittent. Their rates of flow vary enormously, and they differ greatly in size and in the number of openings through which their waters issue. Others discharge such a small amount of water that they are barely noticed. From true springs the water emerges by reason of hydrostatic pressure and does not reach the surface by capillarity. Many springs consist



of deep pools that are constantly replenished from below. Many deposit precipitates in the form of mounds and terraces, but these occur mainly in the western part of the country. Some springs fluctuate considerably in the rate of discharge. Others are almost constant. Such fluctuations are due to the rate of recharge and the rate of discharge by evaporation along with other influences.

Various springs are mentioned in the Bible. Many which flowed directly into the Dead Sea and the lower parts of the Jordan had high temperatures due to their depth before emerging at the surface and their contact with hot volcanic rocks. Some of these thermal springs were Hammath, situated on the west side of the Sea of Tiberias, Yarmuk, north of Umm Keis, Zerka Ma'in, ten principal springs, where Herod the Great bathed during his last illness, and 'Ain Zara which enters the Dead Sea on the east side. The temperatures of these springs varied from 109° F. to 143° F. All were sulphurous. Springs were frequently called fountains, this distinguishing them from wells of artificial construction.<sup>2</sup>

From earliest times, civilized and primitive peoples have made use of mineral springs because of their supposed curative powers, using the waters for drinking and bathing until cured and refreshed. In Greece, the temples of Aesculapius were frequently built near springs supposed to have curative waters. In ancient Egypt, India and Persia, the temples near springs were in charge of priests. The Romans highly esteemed medicinal springs, and during their penetration of western Europe mineral springs were used for their baths, remains of which have been found in Savoy, Provence, Spain, Switzerland, and England. Bathing in imperial Rome was indulged in by rich and poor alike. At one time the city contained eight hundred *thermae*, some of them large enough to take care of three thousand bathers at one time. Some covered entire city blocks and were architecturally embellished outside with marble porticos supported by fluted columns, and inside by marble halls and colonnades. A bath cost usually one-third of a cent. It took from one to two hours. Some persons bathed four or five times daily, and bathing took place at all hours. On holidays the baths were crowded with common people, out for a good time. Much has been written of the luxuriousness of the baths, the bathing procedures, and other practices.

The health resort developed at a mineral spring or springs and known as a spa was popular in modern Europe for many years. It attracted persons of wealth and fashion, some of whom visited spa after spa for treatments and recreation. These springs were mostly surrounded by beautiful villas, luxurious hotels and attractive landscapes, with such other features to which wealthy people are accustomed. All were famous for their cures. To Vichy to partake of the alkaline waters one went if afflicted with gout, liver diseases and diabetes. At Wiesbaden could be found the best thermal-saline

waters in Europe, tasting like "warm, highly-salted chicken-broth" and good for rheumatism and gout, also for bathing. Chronic rheumatism, chronic metallic poisoning and diseases of the skin yielded to the famous thermal, alkaline, saltish and sulphurous waters of Aix-la-Chapelle, an early resort of the Romans and a favorite with Charlemagne, who held court in the baths. At Spa in Belgium or at Saint-Moritz could be found the chalybeate waters which restored the red color to the impoverished blood of the anaemic. At Carlsbad there were the alkaline-saline purgative waters tasting like "weak mutton broth," which operated without colic. Carlsbad was one of the best and well-known resorts of Europe for the diseases that attacked persons leading an easy and luxurious life. For the relief of catarrh of the bladder, nephritic colic, calculus and gravel, calcic waters were available at Contrexville, France, Leuk, Switzerland, and other places.<sup>3</sup>

During the great mineral spring vogue in this country, the springs of New Jersey and the Delaware Valley played an important part. Roughly speaking, the mineral water fad extended from long before 1800 to about 1910, and in the following chapters an effort will be made to trace the mineral springs both of New Jersey and of nearby parts of Pennsylvania from their beginnings to the heights of their popularity and to their decline.

### Early Medicinal Uses of Mineral Waters

Although the caveman may have sought out mineral springs to alleviate his ills, it is not necessary to go back so far for "evidence" of the use of mineral waters to cure diseases. Pliny mentions the great variety of medicinal properties found in the mineral waters of Baia, of which some were impregnated with sulphur, some with alum, salt, nitre, and some with bitumen. Such waters, according to their respective qualities, were beneficial for diseases of the sinews, feet, or hips, for sprains or for fractures. Some were purgative and some healed wounds. Certain waters healed diseases of the eyes. The waters of the island of Aenaria cured urinary calculi. The waters of Thespiæ and of other rivers insured conception to females. Certain waters dulled the senses when taken. Others sharpened the intellect. In fact Pliny has much to say about the effects of certain waters taken internally or used for bathing.<sup>4</sup>

For the most part, mineral waters were used in the treatment of chronic diseases and the best time for their use was thought to be during the period in which the disease was inactive. However, this did not apply to all chronic diseases, as some had no periods of inactivity. Dr. John A. De Normandie, who analyzed the chalybeate waters of Bristol, Pennsylvania, in 1768, found that used internally they acted as "a quick diuretic." At the first drinking they generally



proved to be cathartic, tingeing the excrement black and sometimes, according to the state of the stomach, they acted as an emetic. Their ingestion strengthened the stomach and created an appetite. They promoted digestion. One of his patients, a laboring man, who had suffered for twelve years from "phagedenic ulcers in his legs" (gangrenous ulceration), "a schirrous liver and spleen" (cirrhosis) was given the job of bath keeper and during the course of his work he bathed in the chalybeate waters and constantly drank them. In eight weeks he recovered his health. Other patients suffering from indigestion, rheumatic complaints, liver obstructions, constant fevers, violent colds, paralytic complaints, nervous colic, etc., all benefited from bathing in and drinking the chalybeate waters, their treatments lasting from ten days to five weeks.<sup>5</sup>

Dr. Benjamin Rush recommended the use of the chalybeate waters of Philadelphia, Abington and Bristol in hysteria, palsy, "in epilepsy when it arises from an affection of the stomach, or the womb," in a certain stage of the gout, in obstinate diarrhea, in loss of appetite, in obstructions of the liver and spleen, chronic rheumatism, piles, in all female weaknesses, cutaneous disorders, diseases of the kidney and bladder, etc. These waters, however, were not to be used in hypochondriac disorders, consumption of the lungs, in all diseases where an inflammatory diathesis prevailed, in most cases of hemorrhages, and in acute rheumatism and gout. The daily quantity of water to be taken inwardly varied with the constitution of the patient and his disease. Too large a drink sometimes produced disagreeable effects. It was best to begin with a gill or half a pint and increase it gradually. In addition, the patient should have gentle exercise after drinking the water. Attention should be paid to the diet. Four or five small meals were better than one or two daily ones. In cases of indigestion and stomach acidity, vegetables were to be avoided. An animal diet was preferred, such as beef and mutton, which were better than white meats. As the stomach improved, a gradual return to vegetables was advised.<sup>6</sup>

Doctor Rush concluded his advice by saying, "After all that has been said upon this subject, we must acknowledge that mineral waters, like most of our medicines, are only substitutes for temperance and exercise in chronic diseases. An angel must descend from heaven and trouble these chalybeate pools, before we can expect any extraordinary effects from their use alone." Dr. Rush repeated his recommendations for the use of chalybeate waters in the pamphlet of 1786 which he prepared for the proprietor of the mineral spring at Harrowgate. In this pamphlet, space is also devoted to directions for the use of the cold bath.<sup>7</sup>

Dr. R. L. Allen, resident physician at Saratoga Springs, in 1844 was more definite concerning the benefits of the medicinal agents found in the mineral waters of Saratoga. These agents were sodium

chloride, sodium carbonate, hydriolate of soda, carbonate of lime, sulphate of lime, carbonate of magnesia, sulphate of magnesia, carbonate of iron, bromide of potash, and sulphur. In addition, carbonic acid and sulphuretted hydrogen were present as gases. In this list, according to Allen, were to be found some "of the most useful and important remedial agents known to the profession . . . the sanative powers of them all have now been so frequently and in such a variety of ways tested, that there is no longer any doubt of their ability to cure human diseases, to eke out human life, to mitigate human suffering, and to increase human happiness, if they are properly used." Salt, in addition to being necessary to the human body, was a preservative for long periods of time and when taken into the stomach might act as a cathartic, a diuretic, a diaphoretic, a tonic or antiseptic, the effects depending upon the state of the system, the quantity consumed and other remedial agents associated with it. Carbonate of soda had antiacid, antilithic, and resolvent properties when taken into the stomach. Carbonate of magnesia had uses as a cathartic and it was also prescribed to prevent the formation of calculus when uric acid predominated. This material also corrected acidity of the digestive organs. Iron produced "salutary effects in cancerous affections, neuralgia, chorea, and chlorosis." Iodine acted upon the glandular system. Carbonic acid had a "grateful effect upon the stomach" and was a lively and palatable gas. Without this gas mineral waters would fall into disrepute. In general, the Saratoga waters were useful as alteratives (which modified body nutrition) and for gravelly states of the bladder, chronic rheumatism (if taken as a cathartic and also applied externally), phagedenic sores (if used internally and externally), cutaneous diseases and scrofula (if used internally and externally), and chlorosis. For phthisis the waters had no value.<sup>8</sup>

By 1873 mineral waters, according to Walton and other physicians who believed in them for the treatment of chronic diseases, were being utilized for many more maladies than those recommended by earlier physicians. Without going into too much detail and without being too specific concerning conditions surrounding their use, or of special phases of diseases, it may be said that mineral waters recommended to be used during the inactivity of the disease were being found efficacious or beneficial for many maladies. It is realized that medical science at that time was in a state far removed from what it is today, and that some diseases were probably diagnosed wrongly and that observations relative to cures were haphazard and made on the basis of what some physicians wanted to believe rather than what had actually occurred. It is certain that the recommendations were not made as a result of carefully controlled experiments and a knowledge of the specific effects of such minerals as were present in the waters.

The treatment for the various forms of chronic rheumatism called for thermal waters which acted by heat rather than by their mineral



constituents. A course of thirty baths and a blanket sweat after each bath was advised, the first bath being limited to fifteen minutes, and to sixty minutes near the end of the course. For acute gout alkaline waters were to be drunk, during the intervals of the attack, at the rate of three glasses daily. In chronic gout saline waters were recommended. Waters containing sodium chloride were to be used internally and externally for the relief of scrofula, with sulphur waters also used as baths. Anaemia was helped by drinking chalybeate waters, which supplied iron. About the fifth or sixth month after an attack of hemiplegic paralysis, laxative salines were advised for use internally and externally. Locomotor ataxia called for sulphur baths and thermal waters. Hysteria yielded to sulphur and chalybeate waters, and in hypochondria, saline and purgative waters were useful, especially those rich in carbonic acid. Chronic laryngitis yielded to sulphur waters rich in sodium and to alkaline waters rich in chloride of sodium. Internal doses were thought to be especially useful.

As for diseases of the digestive system, in acid dyspepsia alkaline waters were found to be exceedingly useful, especially those with a considerable portion of carbonate of soda and containing plenty of carbonic acid gas. For flatulent dyspepsia, saline waters were recommended. Waters rich in carbonate of soda were also supposed to cure chronic gastritis, also obstinate constipation although they were sometimes constipating in themselves at first. In engorgement of the liver, saline waters, alkaline purgative waters and saline-sulphur waters were valuable in liquefying the bile, promoting its flow and imparting an increased movement "to the action of the intestinal tube." In the case of gallstones, saline-sulphur, saline and alkaline waters were of great utility.

For eczema, sulphur waters used internally and in the form of baths were useful; but for permanent relief one should go to the springs for several successive seasons. If not cured, amelioration took place. Psoriasis, according to some physicians, yielded to saline-sulphur waters taken internally and to prolonged bathing in them. The foregoing and related diseases, as well as some others, were those, according to Walton,<sup>3</sup> that were helped by various mineral waters. Such waters were not recommended for syphilis, diabetes, intermittent fever, cancer, heart disease, consumption or true phthisis, hemorrhoids, Bright's disease, etc. In 1856 mineral water from the artesian well of "St. Catharines, Canada West" was advertised in the United States as a cure for falling of the womb. This was in addition to its other supposed medical uses.<sup>9</sup>

Many persons who visited springs in the United States made the trip not because they were suffering from any illness but to get away from business cares and the demands of social obligations. After a rest of four or eight weeks they went home, it is to be hoped, refreshed and rejuvenated. They could have gotten the same results if they had

gone to any other place where they were surrounded by fresh air, attractive scenery and cheerful society. However, those who were really ill were benefited by drinking and bathing in the mineral waters, so said many physicians of the period, because mineral waters had been highly esteemed for centuries, and it was difficult to break with tradition. It was not always the physicians who made the most extravagant claims about mineral waters, but rather the proprietors of the springs who advertised the waters as "cure-alls."

Within twenty-four hours after drinking mineral water it acted according to its constituents either as a stimulant, a sedative or as an eliminant. When applied externally it could be stimulating or relaxing, depending upon its temperature. Its most important quality was its alterative effect, a remote action which it possessed. In other words, the water in appropriate doses modified the nutrition and excretion of the body by its long-continued use in moderate doses. Found in small quantities or traces in mineral waters are iodides, bromides, phosphates. Silicates are present in some proportion in nearly all springs. Minute amounts of arsenic and nitrates occur occasionally, and flourides are found in minute quantities. Decomposing humus supplies organic acids, and such substances as algae occur in some waters.

### How Mineral Waters Acted

The advocates, past and present, of the use of mineral waters in disease have always claimed that it is unscientific to deny the accumulated experience of two thousand years during which thousands of persons have testified to their efficacy. At various times science in medicine has been preceded by experience. Such drugs as quinine, opium, mercury, digitalis and others were administered centuries before science was able to explain their action. Sunlight was used for centuries before anyone knew of heliotherapy and the action of sunlight in changing the ergosterol of the skin into vitamin D.<sup>10</sup>

The hydropathic physicians, in opposition to the teachings of the allopathic, homeopathic and eclectic schools, considered that disease was a negative entity, never a positive one. It was the absence of health, and according to such physicians, in general diseases were produced by "bad air, improper light, impure food and drink, excessive or defective alimentation, indolence or over-exertion, unregulated passions, in three words—unphysiological voluntary habits." The body conditions, against which all remedies were to be directed, consisted of "impure blood, unhealthy secretions, obstructions in the minute vascular structures, or capillary vessels, excessive action in some parts or organs, with deficient action in others, unequal temperature, etc., in other words, a loss of balance in the circulation and action of the various parts of the vital machinery, producing great discord in some portion of it, and more or less disorder in all."<sup>11</sup> To



wash away impurities, remove obstructions, supply nutriment, regulate temperature, etc., water was the answer, not drugs. This was accomplished as follows: An interchange took place between the pure water on the outside of the body and the fluid on the inside; viz., the water of the blood, holding the impurities. The poison and water in the millions of capillary vessels passed through the skin into the pure water on the outside of the body while the pure water passed through the skin into the blood to take the place of the poison and water.

Although the hydropaths were not concerned with mineral waters, as such, the mineral water advocates advanced a somewhat similar explanation to account for the benefits accruing from the use of mineral water baths. Dr. George E. Walton in 1873, from the work of others, believed that the skin acted more by exhalation and secretion than by absorption, but he thought that "for most fluids and substances capable of solution by the liquids of the body the skin is absorbent." He even quoted Theophrastus to support his belief.<sup>3</sup> In 1895 Dr. Georges Hayem, who obtained his doctorate in Paris, wrote that the bodies in solution in the mineral water, although not penetrating as far as the blood vessels, at least permeated the superficial layers of the skin. The inhibition of the skin was favored by heat or by the removal of the sebaceous material normally present. It was noted particularly on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet where there was an absence of sebaceous glands. Such inhibition did not imply absorption, and energetic friction during a bath might cause penetration of medicinal substances into the ducts of the sebaceous glands or into hair follicles, and yet no real evidence of absorption was found. Aubert and Schott stated that the salts of the mineral waters, without having been absorbed, penetrated the integument as far as the terminal nerves which are closer to the surface than the blood vessels. Because of the lack of penetration, the effects of the bath could not be attributed to anything except the influence of the baths upon the body through the medium of the nervous system. Mineral water was taken as a rule in doses of from two to four glasses daily. It was considered good sense to begin with small doses and to increase their size gradually.<sup>12</sup>

In 1927 Dr. W. E. Fitch in his book on mineral waters of the United States wrote, "It is now realized that the mineral content of waters are active because of their presence as ions rather than as the salts *per se*, and that the combination of several substances different, but exerting similar action, is by reason of this fact, enhanced in curative value," when the water is taken internally. According to the ionic theory "the chemical salts in very dilute solutions are completely split up into their ions so that all the properties of these solutions must be the sum total of the properties of the separate ions." In concentrated solutions much of the salt is in an undissociated state and only a small part becomes dissociated ions. The great majority of mineral waters

being weak solutions of chemical salts, the chemical constituents are chiefly in the form of ions and these, it was thought, would result in physiological effects and therapeutic potency quite different from that of undissociated salts.<sup>13</sup>

An ion is an electrified particle formed when a neutral atom or group of atoms loses or gains one or more electrons, the electron being an elementary charge of negative electricity, the electrical opposite of the proton. Electrons are constituents of atoms. If electrons are lost the particle is positively electrified and called a cation. If electrons are gained, it is negatively electrified and known as an anion. Fitch wrote that "in all solutions there was some specific solvent property by virtue of which it penetrates between the parts of atoms and separates them into ions, which increase osmotic pressure." However, regardless of the ionic theory, Fitch believed that the therapeutic efficiency of drinking water at mineral springs was greatly increased when combined with proper dietetic supervision, special attention to hygiene and well-regulated exercise. In other words, health was restored in cases of chronic disease by the combined effects of climate, diet, hygiene, exercise and the "drinking cure."

Dr. Oskar Baudisch, in 1940, wrote of the biologic action of electrolytes (substances such as acids, bases, or salts that become electrical conductors when dissolved in a suitable solvent, the current being carried by charged particles, ions) and its relation to the action of mineral water. These ions at first were thought to be formed by dissociation from molecules of the electrolyte substance, but at present are thought of as existing in the substance and becoming mobile by the solvent or by heat. The sodium ion is importantly related to the water economy of the organism and to the amount of hydrochloric acid in the stomach. The potassium ion is necessary to the heart's vital processes and is also needed for the production of sugars, fats and their derivatives. The calcium ion acts on colloid cellular tissue and promotes various vital processes. The connection between calcium metabolism and sunlight or vitamin D is common knowledge. The magnesium ion is associated with hepatic metabolism; the iron ion with the formation of blood. The electrolytes all play important parts in man's constitution. Natural mineral waters are radioactive, but it is not known if this is a curative possession or not, although claims have been made by French investigators that radioactive waters have clinical effects such as sedation of the peripheral nerve endings, activation of ferments, and metabolic action.<sup>14</sup>

These things are brought out for the purpose of conveying the fact that mineral waters are complex, electrolytic solutions. After ingestion they act directly "on the digestive tract, on body tissues, respectively organ and tissue fluids, and on the formation of urine and diuresis." Dr. Walter S. McClellan has stated that during a bath of mineral water, gases such as carbon dioxide, hydrogen sulphide and radon



can be absorbed through the skin, the amounts taken up depending upon the concentration in the mineral water, the amount of skin exposed and the length of exposure. Trace elements such as beryllium, tin, copper, zinc, zirconium, etc., have been found in mineral waters. Iron in fresh mineral water was found to have catalytic reactions toward hydrogen peroxide, breaking it up into water and oxygen, but upon exposure to light and air the power was slowly lost. The scientific explanation of the effects of mineral waters lags far behind the large amount of empirical knowledge that has accumulated. Mineral water, acting by its influence on individual cells of organ systems, results in an accumulated response of the organism as an entity.<sup>15</sup>

It has been recognized for many years that the mineral requirements of the body are important, and that most mineral elements needed are so widely distributed in sufficient quantities that the body chemistry rarely suffers from a lack of such minerals. Nearly all food materials contain sodium. Sodium chloride or common table salt is important in the maintenance of acid-base equilibrium. The maintenance of the osmotic pressure depends largely on total base and in turn on sodium. It also has an important influence on water metabolism. Calcium is a mineral of which the daily intake is frequently insufficient, especially in children. Iron, which is necessary in the formation of hemoglobin, is supplied in liver, lean meats, beans and green leafy vegetables. Iodine is found in sea foods. Such minerals are found in water and particularly in the so-called mineral waters.<sup>16</sup> After all is said and done, it appears that spa treatments in the United States will continue to be considered as unimportant or antiquated unless physicians adopt a different attitude, based upon the results of much basic research that remains to be done and until medical schools consider spa treatment important enough to include in a curriculum, and perhaps until some government agency includes such treatments in some broad, social, public health program.

A small group of balneologists believes that there are properties in mineral waters that should be appreciated and that there is a difference between natural and artificial waters. An artificial salt solution plus or minus carbonic acid fails to attain the therapeutic value of natural mineral water used either internally or externally. In addition, they assert that the mineral content in natural waters is not the only characteristic which has healing properties. Radiant energy, gases, pressure, and previously unrecognized properties each play a part.<sup>10</sup>

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## CHAPTER II

### Social Life at American Spas

Although European spas were greatly patronized by persons of wealth and social position, both for cures and pleasure, there was no hereditary wealth during the early days of the United States. The inhabitants at large were intolerant of indolence and it was not until there was a changed attitude toward vacations and leisure, whereby they became respectable, that persons of some means patronized springs and health resorts in this country. Before that time they spent their leisure in Europe where idleness was normal among the wealthy.<sup>1</sup>

It was during the middle 1700s while the incomes and fortunes of colonial businessmen were growing after one hundred and fifty years of development and work, when they had opportunities to travel for pleasure and health, that mineral springs and health resorts provided an excellent way of making friends, for enjoying their leisure and for becoming aware of each other. In the beginning the colonists visited mineral springs for their health, rich and poor alike, according to their means. However, as certain springs acquired tone, the well-to-do traveled to places that were exclusive and where they could meet people of their own kind. Not only did the waters of such resorts have therapeutic value, but the rest and recreation and change of scene were stimulating and beneficial. The exclusive mineral springs became centers of society seeking change, romance, adventure, health, and relief from boredom, according to one's age. Of course the fashionable maladies were the gout, the vapors and phthisis. From the modest colonial spas, there developed eventually the sprawling, fashionable spas of a later age with their splendidly attired gatherings of wealthy planters, merchants, traders, bankers, executives, playboys, and glittering women of all kinds, many of whom were interested only in gambling, horse racing, liquor and kindred sports and for whom the mineral waters had no attraction.

The mineral springs of New Jersey and the Delaware Valley of Pennsylvania played their part in the great mineral-spring cult of the country. They were in at the start and although they had their grand hotels with black walnut staircases, marble trimmings, crystal chandeliers, hand-frescoed ceilings, needlework draperies, mahogany bedroom suites, and their celebrities, grand dames and society belles, decorated with diamonds and other precious gems, they never developed into the extra plush resorts that appeared later. In fact most of them were comparatively modest affairs.



According to "The Salmagundi Papers" of 1807, "The wealthy, fashionable, dashing, good-for-nothing people of every state flock to the Springs . . . to exhibit their equipages and wardrobes, and to excite the admiration, or . . . the envy of their fashionable competitors . . . The lady of a Southern planter will lay out the whole . . . produce of a rice plantation in silver and gold muslins, lace veils, and new liveries; carry a hogshead of tobacco on her head . . . while a lady of Boston or Salem will wrap herself up in the net proceeds of a cargo of whale oil, and tie on her hat with a quintal of codfish." Before the Revolution nearby springs attracted people who feared yellow fever or who wanted to escape from heat and humidity. Everyone who had sufficient money, planters, officials, merchants, etc., left the cities for the cooler and refreshing atmosphere of the springs. Such prominent physicians as Dr. Benjamin Rush, Dr. John A. De Normandie, Dr. Thomas Lloyd and Dr. Joseph Warren believed that although not too much should be expected from the mineral waters, people would be improved mentally by new scenery, social contacts, stimulations, conversations and flirtations of spa society and that a broadening of their business and mental interests would take place.

To cross the ocean for a moment, by 1645 Epsom was flourishing as a favorite resort for Londoners. Pepys found there a "great store of citizens which was the greatest part of the company, though there were some others of better quality." On one July day in 1663 he wrote, "But Lord! to see how many I met there of citizens that I could not have thought to have seen there, or that they had ever had it in their heads or purses to go down thither."<sup>2</sup> Epsom at the time attracted tradesmen, well-to-do merchants and rough persons because of its nearness to London. Another watering place, Bath, in 1635 was "full of very good company." The rheumatic and gouty went there for relief as did the overstuffed and a group intent upon pleasure who did not overmuch indulge in drinking the waters or bathing in them. Celia Fiennes<sup>3</sup> wrote, "The Ladyes, goes into the bath with Garments made of a fine yellow canvas, which is stiff and made large with great sleeves like a parsons gown; the water fills it up so that its borne off that your shape is not seen, it does not cling close as other linning, which Lookes sadly in the poorer sort that go in their own linning. The Gentlemen have drawers and waistcoates of the same sort of canvas, this is the best Linning, for the bath water will Change any other yellow." In such garments men and women bathed together. On floating trays were perfumes, flowers, handkerchiefs, or refreshments for use of the bathers. After leaving the bath the women went behind a screened door and allowed their canvas coverings to drop by degrees into the water, from which they were removed by female guides. Then flannel nightgowns were slipped over their heads and

they went to a room where there was a fire. Wrapped in flannel they went in a chair to their lodgings.

Returning to Epsom and its medicinal wells, which did not become fashionable until the Restoration, John Toland in his "Description of Epsom" wrote that he often counted seventy coaches in the Ring on a Sunday evening. "By the end of the eighteenth century, Epsom had lost its vogue." Pepys on July 26, 1663, wrote in his "Diary": "Up and to the Wells where great store of citizens, which was the greatest part of the company, though there were some others of better quality. I met many that I knew, and we drank each of us two pots and so walked away, it being very pleasant to see how everybody turns up his tail, here one and there another in a bush, and the women in their quarters the like."<sup>2</sup> Of somewhat similar interest is the statement issued 268 years later about our own Saratoga Springs. Upon the opening of the "State-fostered improvements" in the summer of 1931 it was pointed out by William Preston Beazell in charge of publicity for the undertaking that for the benefit of those taking the waters the main building contained "no less than 110 toilets."<sup>4</sup>

Records are not lacking attesting to the social activities of our own mineral springs. One of the watering places of Virginia, Berkeley Springs, now in West Virginia, was visited by the young clergyman, Philip V. Fithian, in the 1770s during an itinerant preaching tour and his diary records that he was shocked, although intrigued and to a degree envious of people who were not bound by Presbyterian cloth. At the spa he found plenty of excitement. There was on the first evening of his arrival a fight between Mr. Fleming and Mr. Hall during which Mr. Hall wrung Mr. Fleming's nose, and an elderly rheumatic invalid became ill in the bath. He made among the four hundred persons of the village several acquaintances and listened to the gossip, especially about Parson Allen, an Anglican vicar, who had been mobbed by the ladies. "A splendid Ball" was held one night. Card playing was common, and when Fithian "walked out among the bushes" he found, to his dismay, that "Amusements in all shapes, and in high Degrees, were constantly taking Place among so promiscuous a Company." After the ball had ended serenades of the different cottages where the ladies slept continued from twelve o'clock midnight to four o'clock in the morning, one young blood even going so far as to break in and enter "the Lodging Room of buxom Kate," an activity of which Fithian did not approve.<sup>5</sup>

The springs at Bath (later Berkeley) were the first ones in Virginia to which fashionable people flocked. Captain Ferdinand Marie Bayard of Paris, with his wife and child, went there during the summer of 1791 to escape the heat of Baltimore. He found it gay. There was a troupe of Irish comedians, a dance every week, billiards and much card playing at the taverns. A planter might arrive with a carriage and attendants and depart with only a horse.<sup>6</sup>

During the upward course of their development from a mud hole to a spa with a ballroom, race track, and fashionable clientele, many of our springs apparently suffered from the lack of refinements which some guests expected. George W. Featherstonhaugh, English geographer, author and traveler in America, in the employ of the War Department to make geological surveys in the Middle West, was distressed when he visited the White Sulphur Springs of Virginia during August, 1834, to find conditions which he least expected, crowds of finely dressed ladies and gentlemen, negro hostlers, baggage hustlers, mammies, and children, all struggling to find a place to stay in an already crowded little village, with not enough cottages to house the spring visitors. At regular intervals during the day the dining room, the springhouse, the porch, the ballroom, the promenade grounds, were besieged with monotonous regularity. And the wealthy planters took the waters, played cards, drank corn whiskey, chewed tobacco and flirted to an extent that amazed Featherstonhaugh. Along with such amusements, one had to put up with crowding, poor food, dirty table linen, unattractive invalids which the Southern elite, surrounded by their slaves, accepted with unconcern.<sup>7</sup> Other foreign visitors to our watering places of the period simply could not understand how polite Americans with comfortable homes of their own could frequent such places summer after summer and endure the confusion, dirt, discomfort and unappetizing foods in order to supposedly enjoy the beauties of nature, which were destroyed by the management of such places.

At Warm Spring, which the Virginia Assembly laid out in 1775, later known as Bath and finally as Berkeley, James K. Paulding, American author and Secretary of the Navy in Van Buren's Cabinet, in his 1817 writings spoke of the fine drawing room in which the ladies could chat or work. He wrote, "In the midst of the Virginia mountains there is a little spot where is to be found all the airs, graces, paraphernalia, caprices, and elegancies of the most fashionable assembly. The truth is, these springs are as gay, as fashionable, and far more delightfully situated than any I have ever visited." He compared it favorably with Long Branch and Ballston, but did not mention its faro banks and its undesirable male and female characters,<sup>8</sup> which were always found at the most frequented springs.

As for White Sulphur Springs of Virginia, when John P. Kennedy, three days after his arrival on August 27, 1827, got around to writing a letter to his friend Benjamin Henry Latrobe, distinguished British-American architect, he bewailed the neglect of the guests by the management. He began his letter, "White Sulphur Springs is a hovel nine feet square—with four hogs stretched at length in black sulphur mud, immediately before my door, six o'clock in the evening—a hundred stupid people in view with their hands in their pockets." He described the springs as the most uncomfortable spot on the continent



and characterized the owner as knowing the waters to be so valuable that he was entirely indifferent to the accommodation of his guests. About two hundred persons were there with their horses and servants, and the food and lodgings were abominable.<sup>9</sup> Even four years later the Rev. Alexander Wilson of Charlestown, South Carolina, and his wife Sophia found White Sulphur Springs to be “decidedly the meanest, most nasty place in point of filth, dust, and every other bad quality” that they had ever visited. Over night they were eaten up by fleas, annoyed by grunting hogs and the barking of twenty dogs.<sup>10</sup>

On August 16, 1813, James Morrell, while he was at Ballston, described the Sans Souci, kept by a Mr. Davis, where he stayed, as one of the largest establishments in the United States. For gaiety and dissipation it exceeded any establishment or watering place he had ever visited. The guests were mostly New Yorkers, together with some from the southern and middle states. In the evening there was a ball at the hotel at which time he viewed “the fairest part of our creation in their neatest attire.” On the next day he partook of the waters at Saratoga which he found to be stronger than the water at Ballston.<sup>11</sup>

In 1850 the United States Hotel at Saratoga had 1,100 persons to feed daily. This number consisted of 700 guests, 100 children and 300 servants, and each day, in addition to many other articles of food, they consumed 500 pounds of beef, 500 pounds of mutton, 500 chickens, 150 ducks and turkeys, 2,500 eggs, 600 pounds of butter, 1,500 rolls for breakfast and 4 barrels of flour.<sup>12</sup> By 1870 a single hotel at Saratoga utilized during a season, 2 tons of beef, 18,000 pounds of mutton and lamb, 7,000 pounds of veal, 27,000 chickens, 17,000 pounds of fish, 175,000 eggs, 35,000 quarts of milk, 4,000 quarts of cream, 13,000 pounds of butter, 2,000 pounds of flour, 9,000 pounds of ham and bacon, and 8,000 quarts of berries. At this time Saratoga had a local population of 8,000, and a transient summer population in one day as high as 12,000. The hotels and boardinghouses had rooms for over 7,000 guests, one to a room. Most rooms were engaged for from one to six weeks.<sup>13</sup> Much more could be written of the gay social life of Saratoga and its race track, gambling, cocktail parties, balls, and of such sister resorts as Hot Springs of Virginia and White Sulphur Springs of West Virginia, under improved conditions of later years, with their refined atmosphere and their Southern belles, as well as of other popular spas, but enough has been said to indicate that many of their visitors did not have weak hearts, rheumatism, alimentary canal disorders, nervous afflictions and run-down bodies. Dr. J. J. Moorman, writing of White Sulphur Springs in 1867, said that next to the medicinal value of the water and the invigorating climate, the elegant and refined society called forth kindly feelings. At springs one could find statesmen, men of letters, poets, beautiful women, members of the clergy, doctors, judges, lawyers, financiers, planters, farmers,

and wealthy retirees. The sense of freedom and relaxation, together with pleasant walks amid attractive scenery, beautiful rides, mountain scenery, the drawing room before meals where one met pleasant people, the dinner, the drawing room again with its gay, richly dressed assemblage of men and women, where "the fairest of the fair" congregated and where "one could gaze on beauty until the heart reeled in its fullness," all were spring attractions not to be dismissed lightly when considering medicinal watering places. After becoming weary with conversation, or promenades, the company retired to their cottages or to the shade of spreading oaks or to evening rides and walks, or to a social reunion at the tea table. Then the music from the ballroom called the young and gay to a "giddy whirl." On Sunday a "profound quiet pervaded the grounds."<sup>14</sup>

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### CHAPTER III

#### New Jersey's Famous Mineral Spring at Schooley's Mountain

Schooley's Mountain, in Washington Township, Morris County, derived much of its fame from its mineral spring, whose waters were first known to the Indians and later to the whites, who resorted to it in numbers for its curative powers. The Schooleys of Drakestown, and the Colvers and Rogerines who thought it sinful to take medicine from doctors, and other nearby settlers during the first half of the eighteenth century, were acquainted with the mineral spring and its properties. The water emerged from a crevice in a vertical rock part way down the mountain on the side toward Hackettstown. It was between forty and fifty feet above the level of a brook that flowed from the top of the mountain over the stones and rocks through a gorge and over a large rock that divided it temporarily before it dashed over the rocks again on its way to the Musconetcong River, a mile or so distant.

The Rev. Henry M. Muhlenberg, clergyman and founder of the Lutheran Church in America, was one of the early visitors to Schooley's Mountain Spring. According to *The Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg* published by the Muhlenberg Press in 1942, 1945 and 1958, under date of June 7, 1770, he wrote, "In the month of June I was obliged to undertake a journey to the congregations in New Jersey . . ." Again, on June 13, "Set out from Philadelphia in the morning with a rented coach and accompanied by my wife, Pastor Shultz's wife, and two other sickly persons who wished to drink the mineral water in New Jersey." He traveled to Oldwick (then New Germantown) where he had been pastor in residence ten years previously and of which church he was still the rector. On June 20 he started from Oldwick, drove to Long Valley, where he held a service and business meeting, and then proceeded to the spring, after which he returned to Long Valley where he spent the night with Philip Weiss, one of the main supporters of the Valley congregation. His own account of the hazardous trip long before the advent of improved roads and hotel facilities indicates the extreme faith people had in mineral water and the physical efforts that they were willing to endure in order to partake of it.

"June 20 (1770)—Early in the morning an elder arrived from the Valley with a wagon to fetch me and my family, for it had been announced in (New) Germantown last Sunday that, God willing, a service would be held there (in Long Valley) today . . .



“At four o’clock in the afternoon a kind elder ordered out his wagon and seated our sickly women folk upon it in order to drive them to the recently discovered health spring. He rode along with two of the (New) Germantown elders, and I was obliged to keep them company. At the start we had to climb a steep hill which was a mile long, and then we had a mile and a half to travel on level ground. But this was followed by another mile and a half of unbroken and terribly bad roads which were practically impassable for the wagon and which were difficult and dangerous on horseback as well as on foot, for steep hills, several deep swamps, etc., had to be traversed. The poor women had to abandon the wagon most of the way and stumble along on foot over rough stones and swampy ground. Finally we got to within a quarter-mile of the summit of the hill. There we left the wagon and the horses and went the rest of the way to the designated place on foot. From the hill we saw a valley which must have been more than one hundred rods in depth. There was a precipitous footpath, overlaid with flagstones, from the hill’s summit, and we had to trip down this path as if we were descending the roof of a German house. About ten rods down the side of the hill was a ledge and a perpendicular rock. A little stream of mineral water, about two fingers thick, trickled from a crack in the rock and flowed into an artificially constructed hole or reservoir. Those who wish to drink catch up the water from the spring. Others bathe in the reservoir. We were so overheated and fagged by the climb that we were thirsty. All of us drank eagerly from the spring and we felt that it gave us new life. The water tastes like aqua chalibeta mixed with a little vitriol.

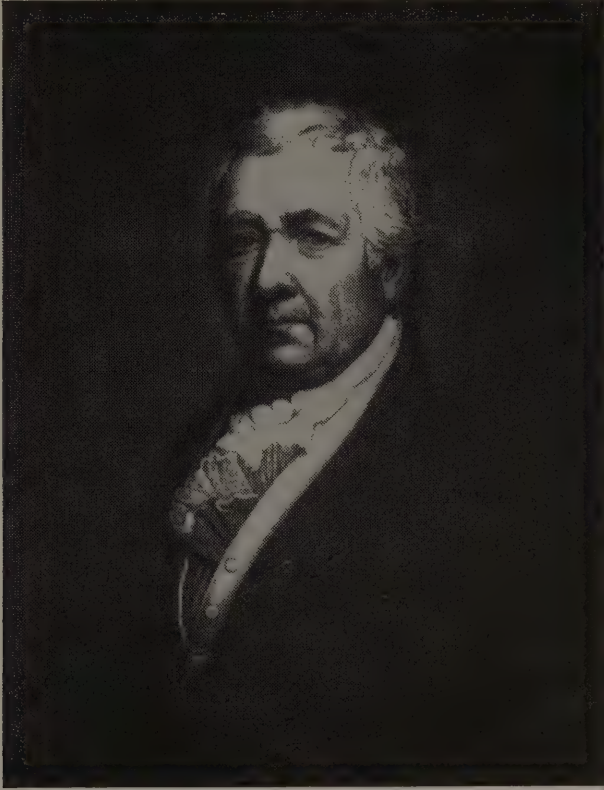


*Schooley's Mountain Spring House.*

(From *Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey*,  
By John W. Barber and Henry Howe, Newark, N. J., 1844.)

“At seven o’clock in the evening we set out on the terrible return journey and, when we were perspired, we were overtaken by rain and thick fog. Under God’s gracious protection we finally reached our quarters at Mr. Ph. W[eiss’s] in the dark at nine o’clock. Our host took all conceivable pains to make me and my family comfortable. This was the first time in my life that I took a mineral water cure.”

In Morse’s *Geography* (1789) the spring is mentioned as attracting invalids from all quarters. After issuing from the side of the mountain, the water was conveyed into a reservoir for those who wanted to drink and bathe. Morse said that the water was used as a healing agent,



SAMUEL L. MITCHILL

(Courtesy of the American Philosophical Society,  
Philadelphia, Pa.)

but he thought perhaps that the effort put forth in climbing the mountain to get to the spring, together with the purity of the mountain air and a lively imagination, were just as effective in curing patients as the water. As the number of visitors increased the springhouse became a classic temple-like structure such as appears in Barber & Howe’s *Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey* (1844). Later it was enclosed in an attractive pavilion about twenty-five square feet in area with a stone foundation and ornately roofed over, but open at the sides and with seats around the interior. The water was piped up to a fountain in the center. It was about three-fourths of a



mile from the Heath House, to which the containers of water were carried in baskets in 1817.

Apparently the first analysis of the waters of the mineral spring was made by Dr. Samuel Latham Mitchill who had heard so much about the mountain and its spring that he finally paid it a visit at the beginning of July, 1810. Dr. Mitchill was born in Hempstead, Long Island, on August 20, 1764. Graduating from the University of Edinburgh in 1787, where he had studied medicine, he then studied law and was one of the Indian commissioners representing New York State in its dealings with the Five Nations. In 1792 he was appointed professor of chemistry, natural history and philosophy in Columbia College. He was a pioneer in the science of geology. He helped to establish the "New York Medical Repository" in 1797 and was its chief editor for more than sixteen years. In addition to other scientific posts he was elected to the national House of Representatives in 1800 and to the United States Senate in 1804. He lived a diversified scientific and civic life until his death in New York City on September 7, 1831.<sup>1</sup>

Doctor Mitchill, in the report of his visit, said that an able horse would carry a chair from New York City to Schooley's Mountain on a summer's day and return between the rising and setting of the sun. The distance from New York City was fifty miles and the turnpike road was excellent. At the mineral spring he found that the end of a wooden leader had been placed under the spring opening so as "to receive the water and convey it to the platform where the drinkers assemble; and to the recesses whither the bathers retire." This is the last reference to the use of the mineral waters for bathing. Bathing at the spring was probably discontinued in later years. He found the temperature of the water to be around 56° F., this being about six degrees warmer than the spring water at the summit of the mountain. He estimated the discharge to be about thirty gallons per hour or six hogsheads per day. He also found that the spout which conveyed the water was lined with a yellowish deposit and that a similar sediment encrusted "the reservoirs at the bathing house." The earth and stones through which the waters soaked away also presented an "ochreous appearance." This indicated the presence of iron, and so Dr. Mitchill made some experiments to determine this matter more carefully.

These "experiments," like the tests made by former investigators at other eastern mineral springs, consisted in adding different materials to the spring water and noting the changes that took place, or their absence. For example, when "prussiate of potash" was added, a deep blue was produced. The green leaves of the chestnut tree on being bruised and infused in the water resulted in a pale purple. Chestnut oak tree leaves gave a brighter purple, and so on. When mixed with brandy a dark unsightly color resulted. He found no evidence of carbonic acid and there were no calcarious incrustations



at the spring, and upon adding oxalic acid to the water there was no change of color, which indicated the absence of lime. However, he detected a weak acid of some sort because blue litmus paper exposed to the water as it issued from the rock gradually changed to reddish. When exposed to the atmosphere the "iron" separated from the water and "a metallic precipitate took place." Upon the basis of these and other tests, Dr. Mitchill decided that the spring was a "pure chalybeate" one.<sup>2</sup>

Doctor Mitchill's report was printed in New York as a fourteen-page pamphlet in 1810. Eighteen years later, or in 1828, there was printed in Morristown, New Jersey, by Jacob Mann, a pamphlet entitled "A Chymical Examination of the Mineral Water of Schooley's Mountain together with A Physical Geography of the first range of mountains extending across New Jersey from the Hudson to the Delaware. By Doct's Samuel L. Mitchill & William James M'Neven, of the City of New York." James M'Neven (McNevin) was a New York physician of some note. He originally came from Ireland where he had been imprisoned for ten years as one of "The United Irishmen." This 1828 pamphlet includes Dr. Mitchill's 1810 report, "A Concise Description," etc., and Dr. William James M'Neven's paper "Chymical Examination of the Mineral Water at Schooley's Mountain." Preceding both papers are two pages signed by E. Marsh who states that the Schooley's Mountain Mineral Spring has been celebrated as one of the most agreeable resorts for health and pleasure in the Union for upwards of thirty years. There were in 1828, so he wrote, three spacious houses for the summer guests. In addition there were a number of neighboring farm houses in which guests could be accommodated. There was also a public house. In all, between two and three hundred persons could be cared for, this being the number which came to the resort during July and August. The comforts and advantages of the Heath House were stressed. It remained open until November 1. It was on the top of the mountain, surrounded by trees. The arrangement of the house and its furniture was adapted for the comfort of visitors. It supplied baths, games, best wines, liquors, brown stout, Philadelphia porter and ale and a supply of Saratoga and Congress water in bottles. In addition, he praised the medicinal qualities of the mineral water, the mountain air, the scenery and the opportunity for guests to meet and associate with gay and fashionable company. Mr. Marsh's remarks are dated May 1, 1828, and he apparently utilized the pamphlet with his introduction for advertising purposes. Incidentally, Dr. M'Neven was professor of chemistry in the University of New York.

During the eighteen years after the publication of Dr. Mitchill's paper, chemistry had advanced to a stage where it was possible to make a more thorough analysis of mineral waters. And so in Dr. M'Neven's account we find that he utilized reagents and detailed

procedures, which he explained in full, all of them leading to more definite information as to the mineral constituents of the water. He found that a third of the bulk of the water consisted of carbonic acid gas, although as it issued from the rock it was not a sparkling water. The gas he believed was in a state of combination. Based on a gallon sample of water, his findings were reported as follows, in grains: vegetable extracts, 0.92; muriate of soda, 0.43; muriate of lime, 2.40; muriate of magnesia, 0.50; carbonate of lime, 7.99; sulphate of lime, 0.65; carbonate of magnesia, 0.40; silex, 0.80; carbonated oxide of iron, 2.00; loss, 0.41. Total, 16.50. These figures, by the way, were reproduced in *Gordon's Gazetteer of New Jersey* in 1834 without decimal points, which made them meaningless, and they were also used in such a state by later authors.

Following the results of the analysis, Dr. M'Neven discoursed at length upon the benefit of the mineral water to Mr. H., a lawyer of New York City who in 1809 when lying down began to feel a sensation of heat in the region of the kidneys. This continued for some months and eventually led to a most excruciating pain in the small of his back. Although attended by a physician he had similar attacks later and the trouble was diagnosed as gravel in the kidney. A vein was opened and this afforded the patient some relief. Lime water was prescribed and when taken freely for a long time this resulted in the occasional discharge of fine gravel. In the winter of 1812-13 his disorder reached an alarming state. In the spring of 1813 he visited Schooley's Mountain Spring, staying about three weeks without apparent benefit. In the ensuing summer he visited the resort again, in a feeble condition, and three or four weeks went by before he experienced any great relief. In less than a month his urine began to be discolored and soon became almost black. The chalybeate water operated as a powerful diuretic and his disorder gave way. After a stay of three months he believed his cure to be almost complete. He drank from fifteen to twenty half pints of water daily. His physician at that time prescribed a carbonated chalybeate that was specially prepared. In a strong iron-bound vessel of several gallons capacity, pure water was introduced together with a few coils of clean iron wire. Then carbon dioxide was forcibly pumped through the water after the manner employed in the preparation of soda water. Mr. H. drank copiously of this. The carbon dioxide made the water more palatable. It blackened the urine and gave relief just like the spring water. Along with the water, Mr. H's. recovery was aided by a moderate amount of exercise in the open air. A testimonial of this sort, circulated by Mr. Marsh in the right places, must have influenced persons with the same trouble to come to Schooley's Mountain Spring and take the waters.

In 1867 Dr. J. J. Moorman, in his book on *The Mineral Waters of the United States and Canada*, published in Baltimore, referred to Dr. M'Neven's 1828 findings of "muriate and sulphate of lime and

carbonated oxide of iron" in the water of Schooley's Mountain Spring and its adaptation to a variety of maladies characterized by anemia, debility and "mucous discharges in which there is no inflammation of an organ present," mentioning however the tendency of the water to produce constipation. In the 1886 report of the United States Geological Survey the temperature of the mineral spring water was given as 58° F. and the flow as twenty gallons per hour. In 1810, seventy-six years earlier, the flow was reported as thirty gallons per hour. In 1886 the analysis by Dr. T. M. Coan was given in grains per gallon for the solids as follows: sodium bicarbonate, 0.58; magnesium carbonate, 1.60; iron carbonate, 0.58; manganese carbonate, a trace; calcium carbonate, 1.42; calcium sulphate, 1.68; alumina, 0.14; ammonia, a trace; silicic acid, 0.74; and sodium chloride, 0.43. Gustav Kobbé included this analysis in his book of 1890.<sup>3</sup> This appears to have been the last analysis to appear in print. No others have come to our notice. Dr. Green, professor of chemistry in Lafayette College who analyzed the water about 1880, stated that very little change had taken place since earlier analyses.<sup>4</sup>

From its beginning as a much frequented resort, Schooley's Mountain was praised not only for its mineral spring, but for its mountain air and scenery. Such praise of course originated first from the hotelkeepers and then from the guests who voiced the pleasures and advantages of the resort. Gordon dwells upon the importance of the pleasant rides and walks, the changing and delightful scenery of the mountain, the agreeable company, the abundant fishing in the streams and in Budd Lake, the gunning, all more or less important to an invalid interested in regaining his health. The hotels, however, were not built where one could view the beautiful scenes afforded by the surrounding country and one had to discover for one's self the attractiveness of the Musconetcong Valley from the 1,200-foot-high plateau, and other similar views. In addition to the mountain scenery generally, there were special places of delight such as Budd Lake, Basin Rock, Bald Mountain, Eagle's Nest, Stryker's Falls near Springtown, the Cataract, and the Devil's Armchair, a group of boulders near the main entrance to the Heath House from the German Valley-Hackettstown Road. If one preferred to sit on the hotel porch and occasionally visit the chalybeate spring, this was another way of passing the time. The season at the resort began June 1 and ended October 1, although sometimes it lasted until November 1.

#### FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER III

1. Harry B. Weiss, *The Pioneer Century of American Entomology* (New Brunswick, N. J., 1936), p. 56.
2. Samuel Latham Mitchill, *A Concise Description of Schooley's Mountain in New-Jersey with some experiments on the water of its Chalybeate Spring* (New York: Printed by J. Seymour, 1810), 14 pages.
3. Gustav Kobbé, *The Central Railroad of New Jersey, An Illustrated Guide Book* (New York, 1890).
4. E. D. Halsey, *History of Morris County, New Jersey* (New York, 1882).



## CHAPTER IV

### Belmont Hall and Its Predecessors

Before there were facilities such as boardinghouses and hotels, people who wanted to cure themselves of their ills by drinking the chalybeate waters of Schooley's Mountain had to live in tents or temporary wooden shanties until the number of visitors increased sufficiently for someone to see the possibilities in providing better accommodations. A clue to the availability of such accommodations is afforded by the advertisement published in "The Guardian: or New-Brunswick Advertiser" of July 31, 1793. This referred to a plantation in Sussex County that was offered for sale. It was "one and a half miles from Hacketts-Town, and one mile from the mineral springs, where a Tavern hath been kept for thirty years, containing 100 acres with allowances." There was a two-story frame house, with three rooms on a floor, a kitchen, barn, etc. For terms of the sale one applied to William Stewart, or Edward Bird, near the premises which could be occupied on April 1, 1794, and a good title given by Joseph Braden, "Loudon County, in Virginia near Leesbourg."<sup>1</sup> On the crossroads at Drakestown, which Gordon (1834) placed three miles from Hackettstown on the road to Morristown and upon Schooley's Mountain, John Hager once kept a tavern. Hager bought a farm of two hundred acres in 1763 from Joseph Arney. It was later sold to Jonas Smith who in turn sold it to Jeremiah Pool on April 17, 1800. Drakestown is located on the 200-acre farm bought by Ebenezer Drake in 1759.<sup>2</sup> In 1834 it consisted of one store and from twelve to fifteen dwellings. If John Hager started his tavern soon after buying his farm in 1763, this checks with the statement of the Braden advertisement of 1793 that a tavern existed within one mile of the springs for thirty years. During that period a few visitors who were able to walk a mile to the springs may have stayed at Hager's tavern or at one or more of the few houses in Drakestown at that time. Of passing interest is the fact that a William Hager, Jun., "late of Schooley's Mountain," operated the Morris and Sussex Hotel of Morristown, according to his advertisement in "The Jerseyman" (Morristown, N. J.) of March 20, 1833. Greene in his 1933 account of the springs mentions reading of "a house for summer guests in the vicinity of the springs" in a "Newark print." This was known as Hager's Inn or Tavern and was surrounded by thirty acres of land. Greene believed that it was not actually on the mountain but near its base.<sup>3</sup> Apparently he was correct in his belief of its location.

It was not until 1810 that a real boardinghouse was available on top of the mountain, at the springs. In "The Centinel of Freedom" (Newark, N. J.) for January 23, 1810, a new, seventeen-room house was offered for rent, and advertised as an excellent stand for a tavern and boardinghouse, by Wm. Hamilton of "Balies Town." Mr. Hamilton was willing to sell half the property to a person "well calculated to keep a public house." "Balies Town" seems to be

**T O B E S O L D,**  
**A** PLANTATION, in Suffex  
 county, one and a half miles from  
 Hacketts-Town, and one mile from the  
 mineral springs, where a Tavern hath  
 been kept for thirty years, containing  
 100 acres with allowances ; there is a  
 large quantity of meadow, and the plow  
 land very good for wheat or Corn, and  
 is well watered, a good well at the door,  
 a frame house, two stories high, with 3  
 rooms on a floor ; also a kitchen and  
 frame barn : it is so well known that  
 it is needless to say more. For terms  
 of sale apply to William Stewart, or  
 Edward Bird near the premises, who  
 will shew the land and terms of sale ;  
 the premises may be entered on the 1st  
 of April next, in the year 1794, and a  
 good title given by

JOSEPH BRADEN.

Loudon County, in Virginia } 37-1f  
 near Leesbourg, July 11. 1793. }

Advertisement mentioning a tavern one mile from  
 Schooley's Mountain Mineral Spring in 1763.  
 (From "The Guardian; or, New-Brunswick Advertiser," New  
 Brunswick, N. J., of July 31, 1793.)

another name for Beattystown, known earlier for many years as  
 "Beatys Mills" after the name of the first owner. According to  
 Gordon (1834) "Beatty's Town" was located on the northeast angle  
 of Mansfield Township, Warren County, at the west foot of Schooley's

Mountain within two miles of the mineral spring on the bank of the Musconetcong Creek. In 1830 it consisted of one store, one tavern, a grist and saw mill, a school and fifteen dwellings. Nunn states that Stewart Martin kept a tavern there at the time of the Revolution and that before 1825 a "grain distillery" was operated there by Elisha and Edward Bird, the latter probably being the Edward Bird mentioned by Joseph Braden in his advertisement of 1793.

In the summer of 1810 the seventeen-room house was leased or sold to Conover Bowne as a summer hotel, but it was without fashion and gaiety. It was located opposite the springhouse and handy for invalids who did not care about walking a long distance to partake of the waters. Bowne, formerly a farmer, was not experienced in hotel keeping. He could accommodate only thirty persons and the table

## To Let,

**T**HAT excellent stand for a Tavern and Boarding house, at the Mineral Springs on Schooley's mountain. Said house is new and contains seventeen rooms. As a stand for business, it is not surpassed by any in the state. As it is presumed no one will lease without viewing the property, a farther description is thought unnecessary. The subscriber would be willing to sell half the property to a person well calculated to keep a public house. For further particulars, enquire of the subscriber living at Balies Town near the springs.

WM. HAMILTON.

Balies Town, January 12, 1810. 94

Advertisement for the rental of a boardinghouse close to the chalybeate spring of Schooley's Mountain, run first by Conover Bowne and later by John Hinchman. (The "Centinel of Freedom," Newark, N. J., January 23, 1810.)

was set with wholesome but not fancy food. At first his hotel was not too successful, but its location was ideal and owing to this advantage the place gradually developed a group of steady guests. A notice in the "New York Evening Post" of July 9, 1817, which Conover Bowne ran for a month, advised the public of repairs and additions that had been made to his establishment near the spring and said that it was now "a very considerable fashionable resort being frequented by invalids from all parts of the United States" whose ills were benefited much by drinking the mineral waters. The complaints that he personally had known to be relieved since his residence at the spring were



“debility, indigestion arising from bilious habits, nervous complaints, dizziness of the head, gout, rheumatism and that most distressing malady the gravel.” He also observed that the water afforded “a certain relief for the Liver Complaint, jaundice and Dropsy.”<sup>5</sup>

In the July 22, 1817 edition of the newspaper, a writer discoursed upon the celebrated mineral spring, its insipid water with no bubbles, and with no salty or pungent quality like that of Saratoga or Ballston. However, he found people from all parts of the country with all sorts of troubles, real and imaginary, drinking the water without rhyme or reason, as to time and quantity. He also said that the resort boasted of only two boardinghouses, one on the top of the mountain where the air was clear, kept by Heath, about three-fourths of a mile from the spring, and the other in a glen thirty yards east of the spring, kept by Bowne. Each house had its own advantages and its favorite guests. At Bowne’s, the less spacious house, the food was good, the mutton excellent, also the wild pigeon, and for breakfast now and then fine brook trout was served. If the hotels had been more numerous and of a better quality, they would have been crowded every summer.<sup>5</sup>

In 1819 and perhaps part of 1820, Conover Bowne, because his boardinghouse at the spring was too small, provided for the erection of a much larger hotel, known as Belmont Hall, on the highest and most pleasant part of the mountain with a beautiful view of the country. It was three stories high and could easily take care of three hundred persons. The grounds were laid out in groves and gardens. Large and airy stables were built. It was ready for guests during the summer of 1820, and in his New York City advertisement of June 1 he asked the “Boston Advertiser,” the “Charleston Courier” and the “Savannah Republican” to copy the notice in their columns.<sup>6</sup> Apparently he wanted to have northern and southern guests as well as those from nearby cities. In the March 30 and November 30, 1820, issues of the “Palladium of Liberty” (Morristown), Bowne offered first to let or lease and then to let or sell his former place at the intersection of the New York and Easton and the Northern Turnpike roads near the spring, claiming that as a boardinghouse and tavern stand it was unexcelled by any in New Jersey in view of the increasing popularity of the resort. Possession could be had on May 1, 1820. In the same advertisements he also offered for sale two thousand acres of real estate in Pennsylvania, fourteen hundred acres in Virginia, and a lot in Newton, New Jersey. In his June and July, 1821, notices in the “Post” he stated that because of his large number of guests in 1820 he had made improvements and had been most careful in the selection of liquors. He promised to again provide agreeable conditions for his guests. This time he asked the “Washington Intelligencer,” the Philadelphia “Aurora,” the Trenton “True American,” the “New Brunswick Times” and the Newark “Centinel of Freedom” to copy his advertisement.<sup>7</sup> “The True American”

(Trenton, N. J.) complied with this request in their July 7, 1821 issue, as did "The Times and New Brunswick Advertiser" on September 6, 1821.

Belmont Hall in the summer of 1822 supplied bottled Saratoga and Ballston water to its guests. On August 13 Bowne staged an elegant sylvan festival, the ballroom being festooned and decorated with evergreens, garlands and flowers suspended from the ceilings and the crystal chandeliers. During the cool evening in the elegantly decorated ballroom the spirited dancing, graced by belles from New York and other select company, continued until midnight. In the late summer and early fall there was a yellow fever outbreak in New York, and this probably resulted in some temporary additions to Schooley's Mountain population. The 1823 summer season continued as before. Bowne's "Post" advertising was unchanged. The mountain resort, however, was now having some competition with Munn's Springs in Orange, New Jersey, but it was not serious at this time as the mountainous region appeared to offer a better refuge from yellow fever. On the hotel menu, Schooley's Mountain mutton was a favorite dish at both hotels in the area, and walks and rides through the woods increased in popularity.<sup>3</sup>

In 1824 Conover Bowne had taken his son, Peter C. Bowne, in the business as a copartner. In addition, Belmont Hall, which had the best wines and good and obedient waiters, also offered "billiard tables, ninepin alleys, shuffleboards, quoits, swings, tilts, etc., together with pianofortes, and a good collection of other musical instruments" for the amusement of visitors. There were also carriages and horses to be hired.<sup>8</sup> In 1825 the advertising stressed that Belmont Hall was built of brick and stone. As a result it was cool, airy and well ventilated in addition to being spacious. It now had "superior" parlors for gentlemen and ladies, those for the ladies containing pianofortes and other musical instruments. In 1825 the August 2 issue of "The National Gazette" mentioned Belmont Hall as having ventilators in all lodging rooms. In 1827 the newspaper notices were signed by Peter C. Bowne, and since the previous summer a spacious plunging and shower bath had been added at a place convenient to the Hall. Every effort was made to attract guests by these added facilities.<sup>9</sup>

A broadside in the New Jersey Historical Society dated May 18, 1825, illustrated at the top with a picture of Belmont Hall, describes the place as being elegantly furnished and as a desirable retreat during the summer for invalids or "persons of pleasure." The best wines were available. The waiters were good and obedient and there were billiard tables, ninepin alleys, shuffleboards, quoits, swings, and tilts. On July 14, 1825, General Lafayette left New York for Hoboken and passed through Hackensack and Paterson to Morristown, where he stayed at the mansion of J. Wood, Esq. There he was tendered a reception and banquet. On this day the proprietors of Belmont Hall




invited him to honor their establishment by a visit. The invitation was directed to General "La Fayette," care of the postmaster at Philadelphia. Philadelphia was crossed out and Washington written in and the envelope was postmarked Morristown, N. J., August 30. It is doubtful if Lafayette ever received the invitation. He left Morristown on July 15 for Elizabeth, New Brunswick and Princeton and his remaining travels did not bring him to the northern part of New Jersey.

While Belmont Hall was flourishing after its erection, Bowne had sold his boardinghouse near the mineral spring to John Hinchman.

# Schooley's Mountain SPRINGS.

## NEW-JERSEY.



### BELMONT HALL.

*The above Establishment will be open on the first of June, annually, and continue so during the Summer Months, for the reception and accommodation of Visitors.*

Every addition and improvement has been added to the Establishment that could be suggested to render it, in every respect, a desirable one for the comfort and convenience of its Visitors.— The high and commanding situation of BELMONT HALL, situate on the highest part of the Mountain, the salubrity of the air, and established qualities of the Mineral Waters, render this a most desirable Retreat during the Summer Months, for the invalid or persons of pleasure. The Hall is elegantly furnished, and the subscribers have been particularly careful in their selection of the best Wines, &c. and in getting good and obedient Waiters. Billiard Tables, Nine-Pin Alleys, Shuffle-Boards, Quoits, Swings, Tilts, &c. together with Piano Fortes, and a good Collection of other Musical Instruments, have been added to the Establishment for the amusement of its Visitors.

STAGES leave PATTEN'S Stage-House, No. 71 Courtland-st. New-York, Thursdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, for the SPRINGS:—and the SWAN TAVERN, North Third-street Philadelphia, on the same days. May 18. 1825.

**C. BOWNE & SON.**

*Carriages and Horses always to Let.*

Broadside poster of Belmont Hall, 1825.  
(Courtesy of the New Jersey Historical Society.)



In "The Palladium" of Morristown of June 22, 1826, Hinchman stated that he had bought the "House situated at the Springs" and had put it in complete repair, together with its outbuildings and stables. The spring and the bath house were about fifty yards from the dwelling house, where good food and liquor were available. The chalybeate waters of the spring, the "fine and elastic" air, free of fogs and night dews, the picturesque scenery, made Schooley's Mountain one of the finest summer resorts of the country.

In August of 1831 Belmont Hall was advertised at length as a "much admired and fashionable establishment, shadowed and embowered by various fruit, forest and ornamental trees and decorative shrubbery; unsurpassed by any other establishment there or at any watering place; affording every amusement and game conducive to the health and pleasure of the valetudinarian, or sportsman and to its former distinguished company." The "Commercial Advertiser" in August, 1831, referred to the Hall as a watering place of fashion patronized by the *bon ton* and selected for the two past summer seasons by a "gay throng," sometimes numbering fifty daily, who wanted to escape the summer heat and humidity. In 1833 it was announced that every future season would start on June 1 and that Mrs. Bowne would devote her attention to the female guests. Eliza Ann, Bowne's daughter, had married John Hinchman and in 1834 he had charge of the hotel, making various improvements including a "large and commodious" wing sixty feet long. When a ball was held at either of the two hotels it was attended by guests from both, and there appeared to be harmony and good feeling between the managements. His notice in "The National Gazette" (Philadelphia) of July 3, 1834, refers to new hot and cold baths added since the previous season, but no mention is made of the mineral water and its benefits. By 1835 Hinchman had added to the furnishings of the Belmont, and Mrs. Hinchman looked after the ladies. After the 1835 season had closed and during the early months of 1836 a piazza, two hundred feet long supported by Tuscan columns thirty feet high and twelve feet apart, was added to the building. The scenery of the location was "majestic" and the food and table luxuries were served in "scientific style." The liquors were "select," the servants "assiduous and attentive," and the "fishing and fowling were supreme."<sup>3</sup> Conover Bowne, a native of Monmouth County, New Jersey, died on November 17, 1840, at the home of his son-in-law, John Hinchman, on Schooley's Mountain, aged seventy-five years. He was buried in the Hacketts-town Presbyterian Cemetery.

A fulsome account of Belmont Hall by John Hinchman blossomed forth in a New York newspaper in May, 1842. Citizens were invited to enjoy for a season "the invigorating and healthy breezes" of the country at Belmont Hall, the "well known and fashionable retreat which offered every inducement to the most exquisite taste combining

pure air with unrivalled mountain scenery." According to the "New York American" of July 10, 1838, Hinchman as proprietor of both the mineral spring and the Belmont had erected a "most splendid summer-house over the springs." Invalids were urged to try "the healing and medicinal qualities" of the surroundings and of the waters. The "pure chalybeate had performed many cures." The hotel was located in a splendid park of many acres nearly "2000 feet above tide waters." Nothing was left undone which could add comfort to its patrons. There were "cool and warm baths, delicious drinks, inviting ices, groves with their serenading songsters, dashing cataracts, foaming waterfalls, and shady walks. The waiters were faithful, the cooks good, the viands were choice, the parlors, bedrooms, drawing and dining rooms were spacious." And finally there were games, music, and "ambling ponies for the ladies fresh from the best stables in the state."<sup>10</sup> For the summer of 1843 the hotel had been repaired, repapered, repainted and refurnished by John Hinchman. It catered to the invalid, the epicure, the gay, the sportsman, the botanist, the philosopher, and the mineralogist. Every evening a band of musicians played. In the stables there was a "pleasure riding wagon," and also other vehicles and saddle horses. In 1850 John Hinchman was succeeded by E. A. Hinchman. A building called the Verandah had been built convenient to the main building with rooms that could be converted readily into private parlors. Mrs. Hinchman gave her attention to the ladies' department. On July 5, 1852, there was a grand ball at Belmont Hall. An invitation cost \$2.00 and a gentleman by paying an additional dollar could bring two ladies, and apartments were available for those who wanted to remain until the following day. The Belmont Hall band played. "The ballroom was handsomely illuminated and decorated as well as the grounds." Hinchman put on a great show.<sup>3</sup>

One J. Y. F. contributed an extravagantly worded letter from "Hinchman's Belmont Hall, August 9th, 1852" to "The West Jerseyman" which was printed in its columns on August 18, 1852. When J. Y. F. "sprang from bed at a single bound, and opened the lattice, through which the evangel beams of day peeped tremulously . . ." what a scene burst upon his vision! After describing the beauty of the scenery, with "the husbandman binding the sheafs of his wealth; the milk maid running along the green hedges toward the dairy and spring house" and "the landscape crowned with the greenth of summer time" and after more of the same he finally stated that Schooley's Mountain "has an excellent company embracing the first citizens of nearly all our Northern cities." The mineral springs came in for praise, the game and the trout, Budd Lake within an hour's ride of the Hall, and Belmont Hall itself, in words that have been used previously in this account. Various transportation routes are described. Every evening at the springs was "crowned with the most



exquisite enjoyment” and “the sylvan bowers” provided “a secure refuge from all the annoying circumstances of outer life.”<sup>11</sup>

In 1853 David A. Crowell was the manager of Belmont Hall, and as usual the advertising stated that the Hall had been renovated and put in order for the season starting June 1.<sup>12</sup> In 1857 Charles Stringer was proprietor. In 1864 E. B. Coleman was at the Hall.<sup>3</sup> About this time a “Visitors Guide” to Schooley’s Mountain Springs was published jointly by Heath House and Belmont Hall. This “Guide,” in the New Jersey Historical Society, describes the natural places of interest on the mountain and nearby, praises the spring water and mentions the board as being \$12.00 weekly, with children and servants half price. The names of fifteen prominent men are given as references including the President of Columbia College, New York. During the 1870s the newspaper advertising of Belmont Hall was restricted to a few lines in the large city papers. For example, the



Belmont Hall at Schooley's Mountain, New Jersey, when  
D. A. Crowell was the proprietor.

(From E. D. Halsey's *History of Morris County, New Jersey*, New York, 1882.)

“New-York Daily Tribune” from the last of June until the last of August carried a notice, signed by D. A. Crowell, nearly every day advising the public that Belmont Hall was open for company at Schooley’s Mountain Springs, saying nothing about mineral water or recreation facilities.

On May 21, 1876, a cloudburst at six o'clock in the afternoon, accompanied by thunder, lightning, hail and rain in torrents, took place on Schooley’s Mountain. A small stream with its head on the Belmont Hall estate rose rapidly and carried everything before it. Woodpiles, gardens, and bridges were swept into the valley below. In some places the roadbed was washed eight to ten feet deep. Belmont Hall lost three hundred panes of glass. The Heath House



lost about one hundred panes, and the springhouse piers were nearly all washed away. So wrote two correspondents to the "True Democratic Banner" of Morristown, which published their letters in its issue of May 26, 1876.

William Gibbons, of Madison, had bought Belmont Hall from Bowne<sup>13</sup> and also the mineral springs of which there were supposed to be five on the property. About 1833 William Gibbons bought 225 acres of land in Madison, New Jersey. At that time William Gibbons lived at Elizabethtown, New Jersey, having come from Savannah, Georgia, where the family was distinguished and wealthy. From 1833 to 1836 William Gibbons erected a mansion which was the home of his family for thirty-one years. In 1867 his estate of 225 acres of which 80 were in forest, together with his mansion and buildings, was sold to become the site of the Drew Theological Seminary.<sup>14</sup> According to H. B. Hoffman, writing in the Morristown "Banner" in 1936, Gibbons bought land in Morristown from Market Street to the O'Hara tavern, which stood on land occupied by Day in 1936, and built in 1842 and 1843, at a cost of \$200,000 what was said to have been the largest and finest hotel in the United States. It was about as large as the late Wanamaker's store at Tenth Avenue in New York City. It took two years to build. When the O'Hara tavern took fire and burned, in 1845 it set fire to Gibbons' hotel which was entirely consumed with all its Persian furniture. This was the hotel that was managed by D. A. Crowell. It was first named the Morris County House and later the New Jersey Hotel.

When the large hotel at Morristown burned, of which D. A. Crowell was manager, Mr. Gibbons placed Crowell at Belmont Hall. When Gibbons died the hotel passed into the possession of his daughter, Mrs. F. A. Lathrop, of Madison, New Jersey. Crowell bought the hotel from her and conducted it until his death.<sup>13</sup> After his death in 1889 the property with which Crowell had been connected for twenty-five years was sold to Miles A. Stafford, who renovated it and changed its name to Dorincourt.<sup>15</sup> Kobbé in his 1890 "Guide Book" to The Central Railroad of New Jersey said that Belmont Hall "changed hands last spring" but that its renovation was not completed when his book was ready. So he did not rate it. Another account states that Belmont Hall became known as "Doran Court" in 1887 and later as "Dorincourt." A brochure issued during the spring of 1899 called attention to the medicinal qualities of the five mineral springs on the Dorincourt property, the gas and electric bells in each room, its own garden vegetables, its six hundred feet of wide veranda, its facilities for amusements, and the way to get to Schooley's Mountain from New York and Philadelphia. The original Belmont Hall was a sturdy stone structure covered with cement. A brick addition was added later and to this another modern addition of wood was added. The 1899 brochure was signed by John H. Brugh of 1123 Broadway,

Townsend Building, New York, until June 30, when he was to be found at Schooley's Mountain. The last proprietor was John Palmer of New York City, with George S. Brigham as manager, who advertised extensively in 1902, which was one of the last seasons during which the hotel had an appreciable number of guests.<sup>16</sup> A travel brochure entitled "Mountain and Lake Resorts" by T. W. Lee, general passenger agent of the Lackawanna Railroad, and published in 1905 by the Lackawanna Railroad indicates that the Dorincourt was still in business. It was open, according to this brochure, from June 1 to September 15. It could accommodate seven hundred guests, and it had gas and electric bells in every room. The hotel was closed through bankruptcy proceedings in the early part of the twentieth century, according to J. Harold Nunn.

A brochure of twelve pages (about 4½ x 3 inches) describing the Dorincourt in all its elegance is in the possession of Miss Louise Blake of Schooley's Mountain. It has an illustration of the hotel on the first page and it is stated that the place would open June 25, for the season of 1902. Like all descriptive brochures of hotels, everything is praised, not unjustly but perhaps somewhat overemphasized. The location was beautiful and healthy, the rooms airy, the dining room was a marvel of beauty and elegance, with a stage for tableaux, the veranda was six hundred feet long, families and children could play in the open air all day, there were no deep lakes or precipitous rocks, benches and swings were on the lawn, the kitchen was good, the hotel had its own garden, and fresh meats and sea food came from New York, and fruits from nearby farms. Its amusements, including three musical concerts daily, were similar to those previously mentioned for Belmont Hall except that there were now macadamized roads for bicyclists, and a half-mile race track, thirty feet wide, on the hotel grounds for horseback riding and other sports. There was a church within a walk of five minutes. The mountain is described, and the chalybeate waters extolled. The old analysis of 1828 by William James M'Neven is used but the decimal points are all in the right places. There is also a list of prominent visitors over the years and a statement to the effect that the Dorincourt had been thoroughly renovated and improved. John Palmer of New York City, the proprietor, had been engaged in the restaurant and hotel business for some years. The agents for Dorincourt were located at 492 Columbus Circle, New York City. The hotel still had gas and electric bells in every room, a long-distance telephone and express services on the premises. A walk of two minutes brought one to the post and telegraph office. Room rates were from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per day. Weekly rates were cheaper.<sup>17</sup> A printed invitation card 3½ x 4½ inches, owned by Mr. Charles Skinner of Schooley's Mountain contains the following wording, "Yourself and company are cordially invited to attend a social hop at Dorincourt Hotel, Schooley's Mountain, Wednesday evening, March 5, 1902. Music

by Hoff's Orchestra. Ladies' Refreshments. Committee. People from Hackettstown will not be admitted. Rain or Shine."

About 1911, G. William I. Landau of Paterson, New Jersey, bought Dorincourt after it had been vacant for a few years. After repairs and additions had been made at a cost of thousands of dollars it was never reopened. In 1935 it was purchased by Richard Rosendale of Hawthorne from Mrs. Rose Landau, executrix of her husband's estate, who planned to reopen it but never did.<sup>15</sup> Greene in 1933 reported it unoccupied and "rapidly becoming out of repair and dilapidated."<sup>3</sup>

During World War I the Dorincourt was considered for a convalescent camp for wounded soldiers, at which time the owner asked \$450,000 for it. When the government deal failed to materialize the owner was much disappointed, as he had acquired the property through the default of a \$70,000 mortgage. After being remodeled, the "Dorin Court" was advertised for sale by G. W. I. Landau, owner, 658 East Twenty-eighth Street, Paterson, New Jersey, as suitable for use as a large institution, sanitarium, seminary, convent, school or hotel at about one-third of its original cost. The card advertising the property, now in possession of Charles Skinner, storekeeper of Schooley's Mountain, is nine inches by eight inches. The upper half contains an illustration of "Dorin Court." The bottom half locates the property and describes the main building as being of stone, brick and frame construction with about one hundred and forty rooms. There were office rooms, a large dining room, a billiard room and club rooms. The other buildings comprised three cottages, bowling alleys, a large icehouse, outbuildings and a garage, stables, and carriage houses. There were thirty-eight acres of land, a garden, fruit trees and a small lake fed by springs. In 1937 George Skinner, storekeeper at Schooley's Mountain and father of Charles Skinner, present (1962) storekeeper, told Frank G. Andrews of his recollection of the grand balls that were held in Belmont Hall. As a boy he used to peer in the windows on ball nights to see the gentlemen in full dress and the beautiful bejeweled women. It seemed to him to be a scene from a fairyland. He and other boys often ran errands for the well-to-do guests.

From the Belmont Hall Register for June 2, 1860 to September 15, 1888, a period of twenty-nine years, which is owned by Miss Louise Blake, the following information was developed. During the seasons of 1860, 1870, 1880 and 1888, the following number of persons signed the register :

	1860	1870	1880	1888
June .....	46	29	68	22
July .....	114	190	219	141
August .....	133	259	154	177
September .....	173	43	26	26
October .....	32	8	1	0



Some of the register signers simply had their meals at the hotel. On July 30, 1870, Dr. Tobias, coachman and two horses registered as such. Coachmen were frequently entered as such along with nurses. On August 6, 1870, some wag signed "Count no Count, Newark, N. J. Room 18M." In 1860 most of the guests registered from New York City, Brooklyn; Newark, Hackettstown, Jersey City, Morristown, and Paterson, all in New Jersey, and there were representatives from California; Georgia; Mobile, Alabama; Detroit; New Orleans; Augusta, Georgia; Washington, D. C.; Tennessee; Boston; Trinidad, W. I.; and Portsmouth, England. On August 17, 1875, a party of twenty from Budd Lake was entered as coming from the "Wagner House."

On June 27, 1938, wreckers under the supervision of the Coleman Brothers of Easton, Pennsylvania, began to tear down the old famous hotel. The place had been idle about thirty-six years. This would indicate that its 1902 season was the final one. It was expected that 500,000 square feet of lumber would be salvaged from the building. Located in one of the bathrooms was a wooden bathtub about four feet long that probably had been once lined with zinc. It was thought that four months would be required to complete the job.<sup>18</sup> Only a stone wall escaped the wreckers in 1938, and in 1946 it was reported in a newspaper that this wall would be blasted down and used to build a new residence for Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Meyer, of the Hackettstown Nurseries, who had recently bought the 34-acre property for residential uses.<sup>19</sup> In 1948 the Meyers were living in what they had been told was the house used for the hotel help. Mrs. Meyers had salvaged from the place a colonial lantern, a coachman's plug hat and a piece of china bearing the name Dorincourt.<sup>20</sup>

Dr. Charles A. Philhower and Mrs. Philhower of Westfield, New Jersey, over a period of fifteen or twenty years collected materials out of which to build their summer home on the bank of the Delaware River on the Jersey side just below the Great Minisink Island. Some of these materials were rescued from the Dorincourt through the Coleman Brothers. For example, the inside walls of their stone house are covered by the paneling of the old Belmont Hall. These were plowed and ground by hand, no two being of the same width. They were last painted in Belmont Hall with red barn paint mixed with buttermilk and the covering is as hard as ivory and of a very nice shade of red. From the third floor of Belmont Hall he obtained two windows with their original panes. These, including casements, windows and all, were framed right in the side walls of their summer home. The shelf over their fireplace is from a doorway support from Dorincourt. This was nine feet long, eighteen inches wide and five inches thick, of fine solid chestnut. A door with "moon hinges" and old glass panes which leads to their front stone porch is also from a

room on the third floor of Belmont Hall. And so part of Belmont Hall continues to live on in the summer home of Dr. and Mrs. Philhower.

### **The Mastodon Skeleton at Belmont Hall**

Of passing interest is the mastodon or parts of one that were purchased by Peter C. Bowne of Belmont Hall for exhibition purposes and as a lure for visitors. In the July 24, 1827 issue of "Poulson's American Daily Advertiser" of Philadelphia, there appeared an extract from a letter dated "Belmont Hall, Schooley's Mountain, New Jersey, July 21st" and signed by Peter C. Bowne, who wrote: "A very remarkable discovery was made a few days ago in the Morris and Easton Canal, about four miles from this place. It is a mammoth skeleton, in a remarkable state of preservation. It lay about 3 feet beneath the surface, and was exhumed in excavating the canal. It is supposed to be much larger than that in Peale's Museum, one of the tusks being probably about 150 weight. The grinders look as fresh as if they had not been buried a day, though they may have lain here a thousand years.

"I have purchased the entire skeleton, and enclose you a description of it, written by Dr. Stewart of Hackettstown. I intend to send it to Europe shortly, and in the mean time those who visit Belmont Hall, can be gratified with a view of it."

Then followed a description of the remains and their measurements, by Thos. P. Stewart, dated July 20, 1827. The jaw, teeth, vertebrae and leg bones of this skeleton were described later by Dr. Stewart in 1828 in the "American Journal of Science and Arts" (1st Series, Vol. 14, pp. 188-9) wherein it is stated that they were purchased by Mr. Peter C. Bowne. In the list of discoveries of New Jersey mastodons in Dr. Glenn L. Jepsen's recent paper, this skeleton is the one numbered 3 from Rockport, Warren County, which is along the Morris Canal.<sup>21</sup>

Twenty years after Bowne had bought the mastodon bones for his hotel, the subject again appeared in print in connection with the mountain. Under the heading "Scientific" in "The West Jerseyman" (Camden, N. J.) of July 14, 1847, Professor Asa Gray, of the Boston Society of Natural History, is credited with stating that there had recently been placed in his hands, "specimens of earthy matter filled with finely broken fragments of branches of trees, which were said to have been found occupying the place of the stomach in the skeleton of the Mastodon exhumed on Schooley's Mountain, N. J., and lately exhibited in Boston." Dr. Gray identified the fragments as belonging to a coniferous tree.

There was no mastodon skeleton exhumed on Schooley's Mountain in 1847, but in 1844 near Hackettstown, Warren County, New Jersey, portions of the skeletons of five or six mastodons were found on the

farm of Abraham Ayres. The occurrence was described by J. B. Maxwell in 1844 or 1845 in the "American Philosophical Society Proceedings" (4: 118-121, 126-127) and in the "London and Edinburgh Philosophical Magazine" (1845. 26: 453-456). The "Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society" include a letter from J. B. Maxwell, one of the trustees of Princeton College, dated Belvidere, October 17, 1844, to Professor Henry relating to the discovery of the mastodon bones on the Ayres farm, which is located as follows: Northwest of the Musconetcong Valley in which Hackettstown is situated lies a range of Highlands about two miles wide, rising about 350 feet above the valley and separating it from the valley of the Pequest. This ridge is cut into sections by transverse depressions or hollows. Through one of these depressions, which is probably 150 feet below the general level of the range, there is the road from Hackettstown to Vienna. Nearly halfway to Vienna a small stream crosses the road. Mr. Ayres' house was about 100 yards beyond the stream. The bones of the mastodons were found more than a fourth of a mile beyond his house in a northerly direction and perhaps 300 yards from the road, and Mr. Ayres first found the bones when he drained a pond hole. After the water had run out and the ground had become dry, he dug out a portion of the earth for manure and in this way, made his discovery. The pond on his place became known as "Mastodon Pond" and is marked as such, according to J. Harold Nunn, president of the Warren County Historical Society, on a wall map of Warren County, in Independence Township, by H. F. Walling, dated 1860. The Ayres pond was later owned by Wm. Boyd and then by Theodore Barker, who drove a team for Mr. Nunn's father for some years before 1905.

The animal whose stomach contents were described and identified by Asa Gray came from near Hackettstown, and its skeleton together with four additional skulls, all from "Mastodon Pond" near Hackettstown, are on exhibit in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College. Mr. Nunn advised us that in 1845 the skeleton was on exhibit at the Young Men's Christian Association in Saratoga Springs, New York, and that Dr. John C. Warren of the Harvard Medical School and Professor Webster, a colleague, became interested and solicited funds for its purchase around 1846, when it was presented to the University. The list of 123 donors included the names of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Francis C. Lowell, Henry Cabot, Edward Everitt, Thomas Perkins, William H. Prescott and others.<sup>22</sup> In the "Newark Daily Advertiser" of January 8, 1847, Abraham Ayres advertised an auction sale of the remains of the three mastodons on January 16 at 249 Broad Street, Newark.



# FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER IV

1. *The Guardian; or New-Brunswick Advertiser*, July 31, 1793.
2. J. Harold Nunn, *The People of Hackettstown, New Jersey* (Hackettstown, N. J. 1956), p. 59.
3. Joseph Warren Greene, Jr., "Schooley's Mountain Springs," *Proc. N. J. Hist. Soc.* 51(2); 176-190, April, 1933; *New York Daily Tribune*, June 10, 1851.
4. J. Harold Nunn, *The Story of Hackettstown, New Jersey, 1754-1955* (Hackettstown, N. J., 1955), p. 189.
5. Joseph Warren Greene, "Schooley's Mountain Springs," *Proc. N. J. Hist. Soc.* 51(2): April, 1933, pp. 179-180.
6. *New-York Evening Post*, June 1, 1820.
7. *Ibid.*, July 17, 1821.
8. *Ibid.*, June 22, 1824; *The Times and New Brunswick Advertiser*, July 21, 1824.
9. *National Gazette and Literary Register* (Philadelphia), July 20, 1827.
10. *The New York Herald*, May 13, 1842.
11. *The West Jerseyman*, August 18, 1852.
12. *Public Ledger and Transcript* (Philadelphia), June 1, 1853; *Newark Daily Advertiser* (Newark, N. J.), June 16, 1853.
13. H. B. Hoffman, "Schooley's Mountain Springs," *The Banner* (Morristown, N. J., 1936?)
14. William Pearson Tolley, *Alumni Record of Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, N. J., 1867-1925* (New York, 1926); Anon., "History of Old Dorincourt," *Hackettstown Gazette*, July 8, 1938; Ezra Squier Tipple, *Drew University, 1867-1917* (New York, 1917), p. 30.
15. Henry Charlton Beck, "Schooley's Mountain Springs Has Claim as 1st U. S. Resort," *The Sunday Star-Ledger* (Newark, N. J.), November 20, 27, 1955.
16. Anon., "Historic Old Dorincourt Hotel Passes Into Oblivion," *Hackettstown Gazette*, August 5, 1938.
17. Brochure of the Dorincourt, Season of 1902. In possession of Miss Louise Blake, Schooley's Mountain, N. J.
18. Anon. "Old Dorincourt to be Razed," *Hackettstown Gazette*, July 1, 1938.
19. Probably the *Hackettstown Gazette* of August 1, 1946.
20. Henry Charlton Beck, "Schooley Mountain Spa Famed For Cures," *The Sunday Star-Ledger* (Newark, N. J.), March 14, 1948.
21. Glenn L. Jepsen, *A New Jersey Mastodon*, Bulletin 6, May, 1959, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, N. J.
22. J. Harold Nunn, Letter from, Hackettstown, N. J., March 7, 1960.

## CHAPTER V

### The Heath House and Ephraim Marsh

Schooley's Mountain Spring was favored early in its development as a resort not only by the activity of Conover Bowne, but by the foresight of the Heaths and the Marshes. Joseph W. Heath, who was born in 1762 and died May 11, 1825 at the age of sixty-three, came from Amwell, Hunterdon County, to Schooley's Mountain. In 1799 Joseph Colver sold to Joseph W. Heath 112 acres for \$750. Of this acreage Colver had bought twenty acres from Thomas Mill and Nancy Mill in 1787, thirty acres from Richard Mann in 1793, and the balance was inherited from Robert Colver.<sup>1</sup> According to Halsey this Colver tract embraced the land on which Heath House, Belmont Hall and the residences of H. W. Hunt and W. W. Marsh stood in 1882. An agreement by Joseph Colver to sell this tract of land to Joseph Heath, dated 1799, was in the possession of William Wallace Marsh in 1882.<sup>2</sup> In 1895 this tract belonged to the estate of W. W. Marsh, son of Ephraim Marsh. Joseph W. Heath was married to Sarah Robbins at Amwell by the Rev. Mr. Frazer. Sarah was born in 1776 and died in 1840 at the age of sixty-four. They were first cousins. Joseph W. Heath's father was David Heath, who married Mary Worthington of Gloucester County. They had a large family, one of their children being David Heath who settled in Hunterdon County, New Jersey.

Before 1800 Joseph W. Heath had built a boardinghouse on his land and this probably was the so-called Alpha house recorded as early as 1793 or 1795 by various authors. Joseph W. Heath was aware of the importance of the mineral spring, but his Alpha house and another house built about 1809 were not adequate structures, as he was able to house only between thirty and forty boarders. In 1816 he hired Ephraim Marsh as a manager, and as a result the buildings and property were gradually improved and expanded until 1820 when they were sold to Marsh, who in 1817 had married Heath's daughter Lavinia.<sup>1</sup> Gustav Kobbé, writing of the Alpha in 1890, said that the old building still formed a part of the Heath House and that it contained several pieces of furniture and old mirrors of a previous century.<sup>3</sup>

Before Joseph W. Heath hired Ephraim Marsh as his manager, Heath's son David in 1814 advertised "Schooley's Mount Springs, Heath's House" in a July 2 Philadelphia newspaper. In the advertisement he thanked the public for their patronage of previous years and

stated that he had erected large additions and had made material alterations to his house rendering "the whole uniform and commodious, with a Piazza of ten feet wide by seventy-two feet long on the north front." He had laid in a large supply of liquors selected by the best judges in New York City and had made provision for taking care of one hundred guests.<sup>4</sup> In the David Heath advertisements his name is followed by "Jr." which is apparently a mistake for "3rd" as Joseph W. Heath's father and an uncle were named David.

In 1817 we find David Heath advertising "Schooley's Mount Springs" in the "New York Evening Post" of July 9 calling attention to the superior style of Heath House, the salubrious climate, the



THE ALPHA HOTEL ON SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN

This extinct hotel, rarely illustrated, was the first one on Schooley's Mountain. It became the nucleus for the various buildings later known collectively as the Heath House.

(Courtesy of Lubin Palmer of Schooley's Mountain, who photographed it about 1903.)

elevation, etc. This notice ran every day for three weeks. At this time there was only the Heath House on the top of the mountain and the Conover Bowne house within thirty yards of the spring. If one was not an invalid and had children the Heath House was the better place to board. On September 3, 1817, David Heath advertised that his hotel was not so crowded as to make September accommodations unavailable if the weather should continue to be warm.<sup>5</sup>



In 1818 and 1819 the seasons opened in June with David Heath being replaced by his father, Joseph W. Heath. In the "New-York Evening Post" of July 7, 1818, the following notice was printed: "Schooley's Mountain Springs—Heath's House—The subscriber, sensible of the many obligations he is under for preference heretofore given to his house while kept by his son, would hereby return his sincere acknowledgement and, at the same time informs them, that he now intends keeping the house himself, his son being under the necessity of being absent this season.—Joseph Heath." It is possible that David as proprietor did not get along with Ephraim Marsh as manager and in order to adjust matters Joseph W. Heath again took over.

**Schooley's Mount Springs.  
HEATH'S HOUSE.**

**T**HE subscriber takes this method of tendering his most unfeigned acknowledgments to his friends and the public generally, for the very liberal patronage bestowed upon him, during the last season, and begs leave, at the same time, to inform them that he has since erected several large additions to, and made material alterations in his house, so as to render the whole uniform and commodious, with a Piazza of ten feet wide by seventy-two feet long on the north front

Having laid in a large supply of Liquors, selected by the best judges in the city of New-York, and made every arrangement for the accommodation of ONE HUNDRED persons, hopes, with his own exertions to merit a continuance of their favors.

**David Heath, jr.**

**July 2**

**. d3w**

**THE HEATH HOUSE**

(From "Poulson's American Daily Advertiser," Philadelphia, Pa., of July 2, 1814.)

On June 24, 1816, a news item labeled "Steam Engine" had appeared in the "Sussex Register" (Newton, N. J.) having been reprinted from the Philadelphia "Aurora." It referred to a David Heath, jun. of New Jersey who had "discovered a new era in the economy of steam engines applied to land as well as water carriage." His invention consisted of a new application of principles in the construction of the boiler or evaporator "which rapidly generates a very high temperature or expandability of steam without the employment of condensation; and dispensing entirely with the use of the fly wheel, and lever beam. An engine of a four horse power charged with fuel,

may be comprised in the space appropriate for the baggage of a stage; and may be lifted on and off the carriage by four men." The carriage could be driven on the road without tracks at the rate of fifteen miles an hour, and could ascend and descend hills at uniform velocities with safety. William W. Marsh in a letter from Schooley's Mountain, April 15, 1884, to Mrs. Heyl wrote that David Heath, "a man of remarkably brilliant intellect having invented a Steam Road Wagon which was a partial success," subsequently became insane and died in 1829.

## **Schooly's Mountain Mineral Springs.**

### **HEATH-HOUSE,**

**T**HE Subscriber feels it his duty to return his most grateful acknowledgments for the very distinguished patronage awarded him the last year by a generous public, and at the same time would inform his customers and the public in general, that he has opened his establishment in a style superior to that of any former season; having made to it several essential additions and improvements, he can with the fullest confidence assure the visitants of Schooly's Mountain, whether their object be health or pleasure, his situation presents them more solid inducements than any other watering place in the Union.

His Liquors, selected by the best judges in New York and Philadelphia, he is confident will be entirely satisfactory. The roads leading to this place, have this season undergone a thorough repair.

**E. MARSH.**

**June 21---3w**

#### **THE HEATH HOUSE**

(From the "National Gazette and Literary Register, Philadelphia, Pa., July 1, 1823.)

When the Heath House opened on May 4, 1820, it was under the management of Ephraim Marsh, Joseph Heath's son-in-law. In Marsh's newspaper advertising he claimed that large additions had been made to the house. It could now accommodate one hundred persons at once. The grounds had been improved. Outhouses had been repaired. The food was better and only the mineral spring remained the same in its capacity for affording relief to invalids. Its waters were better than any others in the United States. Persons who had used Saratoga and Ballston waters with no effect met with

success from Schooley's Mountain spring waters, or at least were not injured by it.<sup>5</sup> On January 18, 1821, Joseph Heath and his wife deeded twenty-six acres of land to Ephraim Marsh. And on October 19, 1827, Ira C. Whitehead as administrator of Joseph Heath's estate deeded two tracts to Ephraim Marsh, the homestead farm and twenty acres formerly known as the "Still House Lot" tract. At the same time Ephraim Marsh took possession of eighty-one acres and three other tracts as the result of a judgment awarded by the Court of Common Pleas in a dispute between David Heath, 3rd, and his father's executor, Ira C. Whitehead.

In 1821 Marsh's advertising was confined to a statement in which he said that the Heath House was so well known as a fashionable watering place that it was unnecessary to mention the salubrity of the air or the unexampled qualities of the mineral water. However, he thought it important enough to say that the mail arrived three times weekly instead of once either from New York or Philadelphia in a genteel stage coach, which also carried passengers.<sup>6</sup> When the Heath House opened in June, 1822, it advertised the fact that Saratoga and Ballston waters were available to guests in bottles, in spite of Marsh's derogatory statements of 1820 about these mineral waters.<sup>5</sup>

The Heath House advertising from 1823 onward for a number of years continued to be more or less the same, offering "most grateful acknowledgments for their very distinguished patronage awarded by a generous public," calling attention to the superiority of their liquors, and to the health and pleasure afforded by the resort, these being more solid inducements "than could be found in any other watering place in the Union." Ephraim Marsh did a lot of advertising in "The National Gazette and Literary Register" of Philadelphia, where at different times the mineral water, liquors, Philadelphia stout, ale and porter, public conveyances to the resort, and new lodging compartments were stressed.<sup>7</sup>

On August 1, 1823, a "Sojourner" at Schooley's Mountain wrote a letter to the printer of "The Emporium" of Trenton, New Jersey, which astonishingly enough was printed in the paper the next day as follows: "I lately sojourned on Schooley's Mountain, and was much gratified by the numerous accommodations, the excellent living and particularly with the polite and manly deportment of Mr. Marsh keeper of the Mansion house, formerly Heath's. I do not hesitate to say that persons visiting the Springs, will be well entertained at his establishment." In 1824 Marsh stressed in his advertising the experienced and attentive servants;<sup>8</sup> in 1825, the celebrated Schooley's Mountain mutton, a new cook, and improvements in all the roads. In 1826 and 1827 attention was called to the fully established health of guests who came to the resort two or three summers before, "bowed down with disease," and also to the elastic air and the gay and fashion-



able company, and in addition much was repeated that had previously appeared.<sup>9</sup> In Gordon's "Gazetteer" of 1834 it is stated that a mine opened within gun-shot of the Heath House was highly magnetic, so much so that the use of tools around the mine was extremely inconvenient. Mr. Marsh said that the continued use of tools resulted in their strong magnetization. Augers used in boring rock were difficult to remove later. A crowbar picked up other mine tools to the weight of one hundred pounds. The magnetic attraction also added much to the fatigue of mine workers.

The Heath House in 1832 was a two-story frame building with a piazza 150 feet long. However, a new house was built and the old buildings had been converted into rooms so that there were accommodations for two hundred or more guests. These improvements and changes had apparently been made between the 1832 closing and the 1833 opening dates. In 1843 Joseph Heath Marsh was the new manager of the Heath House, which again had been greatly enlarged. Several cottages had been built, convenient to the main building, and these could be rented by a single room, a floor, or the entire cottage. During this summer David A. Crowell was assistant manager. In 1849 Ephraim Marsh in the Philadelphia "Public Ledger" of July 9 stated that the Heath House had been taken for the ensuing year by David A. Crowell, who had been the proprietor of the late, celebrated New Jersey Hotel in Morristown, New Jersey. And in a "Visitors' Guide" prepared for both hotels about 1857, he continued to be recorded as proprietor of the Heath House. He was there also as late as 1864. In 1860 his advertisements of the Heath House in the Philadelphia papers consisted only of a few lines of type. In 1852 A. L. Stiger was assistant manager. In the "Newark Daily Advertiser" (Newark, N. J.) of June 16, 1853, Stiger advertised all kinds of amusements and a full, brass band at the resort. In 1854 he was succeeded by Albert De Groot, a former Hudson River steamboat captain who had recently been at the Prescott House, Broadway and Spring Street, New York. In the New Brunswick "Fredonian" of August 1, 1855, a correspondent from Schooley's Mountain reported the capacity of the hotels as Heath House, 350, Belmont Hall, 200, and Forest Grove House, 100 guests. Among the various managers of the Heath House was Sylvanus T. Cozzens whose name was signed to the advertisement printed in "The Philadelphia Inquirer" of July 8, 1867.

The Schooley's Mountain Hotel Company was incorporated by the Legislature of New Jersey on February 18, 1868, the incorporators being William W. Marsh, son of Ephraim Marsh; John Marsh; Joseph Heath; Theodore Little; and William Dellicker, a leading businessman of Morris County, postmaster at Schooley's Mountain 1850-51, who continued his father's business as a merchant and distiller at Springtown, and was a director of the Hackettstown National

Bank. They were given authority to lease, purchase and hold real estate in Washington Township, Morris County, to erect a hotel and improvements on any part of their real estate for the accommodation of the public and to transact related business. Each share of the capital stock entitled the owner to vote at meetings. Directors were to be elected from among the stockholders. Their entire debt was not to exceed the amount of the subscribed capital stock. The capital was \$100,000. This could be increased to \$150,000. The incorporators were given permission to open books and take subscriptions and when \$50,000 worth of stock was sold, the stockholders could meet upon the call of the incorporators and elect officers.<sup>10</sup> According to



THE SPRINGHOUSE AT SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN, 1862

(Photographed, by permission of Miss Louise Blake, from a black-and-white lithograph in her possession.)

"The Jerseyman" (Morristown, N. J.) of July 25, 1868, there was to be an executors' sale of the Heath House on Thursday, August 6, 1868. This sale was to include the furniture and thirty acres of land. Possession was to be given on October 15. The terms were one-fourth cash and three-fourths on bond and mortgage for five years. This notice appeared after the Schooley's Mountain Hotel Company was incorporated in February of the same year. When Ephraim Marsh died in 1864 he left to his executors the Heath House property with full power to sell or exchange.

When Mary Heath died about 1849 she left all her estate, except for certain bequests, to her brother-in-law, Ephraim Marsh, which



he held until his death. The various owners of the Heath House property from January 1, 1840 to January 6, 1872, will be found in the appendix.

During July and August, 1873 and 1874, the brief daily advertisements in the "New-York Daily Tribune," all signed by J. Warren Coleman, proprietor, simply said that the Heath House was open, "mountain scenery unsurpassed, no musketoes." In 1873 the place was kept open during September.

J. K. Hoyt of Madison in 1874 dwelt upon the beauty and advantages of the resort, which was 62 miles from New York. He said that it was largely patronized by Philadelphians as well as New Yorkers. The mineral waters were good for "calculus" and related complaints and the weak and dyspeptic would be surprised at their sudden invigoration. The village at the time included a country store in which the post office was located, and a "nice little" schoolhouse. Mail was received twice daily. Cottages were connected with the Heath House. There was an elegant church and a large seminary for both sexes.<sup>11</sup>

J. Warren Coleman as proprietor of the Heath House issued an eight-page folder in 1881 or 1885 entitled "Schooley's Mountain The Healthiest Summer Resort in the United States." This is the usual type of descriptive material. The special features were the presence of magnetic iron ore on the mountain and the chalybeate mineral spring, the William James M'Neven analysis being used. There had been only seven deaths on the mountain for the past six years and those were mostly of old people. In large cities the average rate was between twenty and thirty deaths per year per thousand of population. At Schooley's only five children had died in the six-year period and these were in the district outside the mountain proper. Within the mountain area, only one child in a population of two hundred had died in eight years.

A correspondent of the "Newark Daily Journal" writing from Schooley's Mountain in the "Morris County Chronicle" (Morristown, N. J.) of July 22, 1881, said that having heard of the boasted healthfulness of the place, he visited the first eleven private houses within less than a quarter of a mile from the hotel. He found in a population of forty-two that two colored persons, a man and wife, gave their ages as 103 and 102 years. There was a Mrs. Dixon aged 81 years, and Aunt Peggy and Mary Forrester, living in Mr. David C. Nunn's house, were each 80. Peter Vossler and his wife were 83 and 80, and there were two others over 60 and two over 55. However, a somewhat different picture was supplied by one A. R. M. in the "Monmouth Democrat" (Freehold, N. J.) of August 17, 1882. Having read a circular issued by the Heath House telling about only one death per year in that area owing to the healthfulness of the chaly-



beate waters of the spring, and of the absence of flies, mosquitoes, and malaria, he went there in person to take advantage of such a heavenly place. As he sat on the "zephyr-fanned" porch the first evening, he heard the familiar buzz of the Toms River "old citizen." The people of the house told him that they were the first ever to be seen in the neighborhood and would pass as curiosities. As for flies, droves of them were first at the table and tasted everything. Never had he seen as many in Freehold, New Jersey. Although Heath House looked like a pleasant summer hotel, he was not going to stay there even though its guests, he assumed, were well taken care of. Its grounds were



THE SPRINGHOUSE AT SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN, 1895  
(Courtesy of J. Harold Nunn.)

ample, its rooms airy and its table good. The veranda was broad and shady and full of babies. He thought that there was no hotel in the state where mothers and young babies could be so safe and comfortable. After breakfast everyone went to the spring, one-half mile distant, for a drink of "irony" water. The walk, he thought, was beneficial but he did not drink the water. An analysis of it was posted in the Heath House. The spring was reached by a road bordering a deep ravine beautiful and rich in ferns. The road was guarded by fenders

like those on country turnpikes. During his first week he saw three funerals on the mountain which led him to doubt the death rate of one yearly, and up to the time of his letter to the newspaper he had been free of malaria.

There were other inducements used by Coleman to attract guests. The detached buildings of the Heath House afforded an opportunity of dividing guests so as to promote their comfort. The main building was three stories high and it had a grand piazza. In addition to its parlor, it had a music room 100 x 40 feet in which hung Beard's celebrated painting of "The Deluge." At one end of the dancing hall was a miniature stage, with wings, side entrances, a drop curtain, two or three good scenes and a row of footlights. Here were given concerts, amateur theatricals and dramatic readings. The dining room was in a separate building, and there was one building exclusively for adults and another for families where children and servants were accommodated. Sunday papers arrived at 2:00 P.M. There were two mail deliveries daily except Sundays. The excursion ticket from New York to Hackettstown and return by train was \$2.45.<sup>12</sup> The mineral spring in 1882 was owned by William Wallace Marsh. According to Robinson's Atlas, J. Warren Coleman had the Heath House in 1887.

In 1890 Gustav Kobbé described the Heath House as old-fashioned and ample on some twenty-five acres of shaded grounds. Near the main entrance was a group of boulders appropriately named the Devil's Arm-chair. The Heath House made no pretense of supplying fashionable amusements. The place was comfortably furnished. The food was plain and plentiful. Some guests had been coming for over thirty years. Their prices were as follows: adult, per week, single rooms, \$12.00 to \$14.00; double rooms, two persons, per week, \$24.00 to \$28.00; double rooms, one person, \$18.00 to \$21.00 per week; one week and less than two weeks, \$2.00 per day; \$7.00 per week for children and nurses taking their meals at the children's table; children under 12 taking meals at public table, \$10.00 per week; transient guests, \$2.50 per day. Carriage hire to Budd Lake, \$6.00; Hackettstown, \$3.00; double team, \$1.50 per hour.<sup>3</sup>

In a brochure belonging to the late Harry Stelter of New York City and Schooley's Mountain, issued by William E. Coleman (father of J. Warren Coleman), manager of the Heath House in 1894, 1895 and perhaps later (W. E. Coleman was formerly of the Rossmore Hotel, Chicago), the attractions of the resort, the scenery and the chalybeate spring were mentioned. The Heath House and cottages consisted of several detached buildings, none over three stories, all within a beautiful lawn of 25 acres upon which was a large baseball field, tennis courts and a good bicycle track. The buildings accommodated 350 persons. One building was reserved for families, the rooms



communicating. Another was for adults. There were two other buildings connected to these by covered walks. In addition there were two furnished cottages to let and one for sale. There were "a good Livery, Billiard Room, Bowling Alleys and evening Music by an Orchestra hired for the season," also a neat stage for private theatricals. Finally the brochure concludes with analyses of the chalybeate spring and the Heath House spring.

A breakfast menu for the Heath House, in the possession of Harry Stelter, listed fruit, rolls, corn bread, Graham muffins, oatmeal, hominy, "Weaten grits," broiled fish, mutton chops, beefsteak, spring chicken, "Dold's ham"; fried liver and bacon, French potatoes, clam fritters, codfish cakes, veal cutlets, "Stewed" potatoes, beef's



THE HEATH HOUSE AT SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN

(Courtesy of the late Harry Stelter.)

kidney, clams on toast, eggs, boiled, fried, scrambled and omelette, tea, coffee and chocolate. Guests were served from 7:30 to 9:00. Nurses and children had to eat a half hour earlier.

In Karl Baedeker's *The United States with an Excursion Into Mexico*, dated Leipzig, 1904, only the Dorincourt Hotel is recorded as being on Schooley's Mountain. There is no mention of the Heath House. In 1936 H. B. Hoffman, writing in "The Banner" (Morristown?) said that the Heath House not being in use for several years began to fall in and because it was an eyesore it was pulled down.



There are conflicting stories about its demise, one stating that it was razed in 1904 and another that it was dismantled in 1907 and later torn down. W. E. Coleman closed the hotel about 1899 according to Lubin Palmer of Schooley's Mountain.

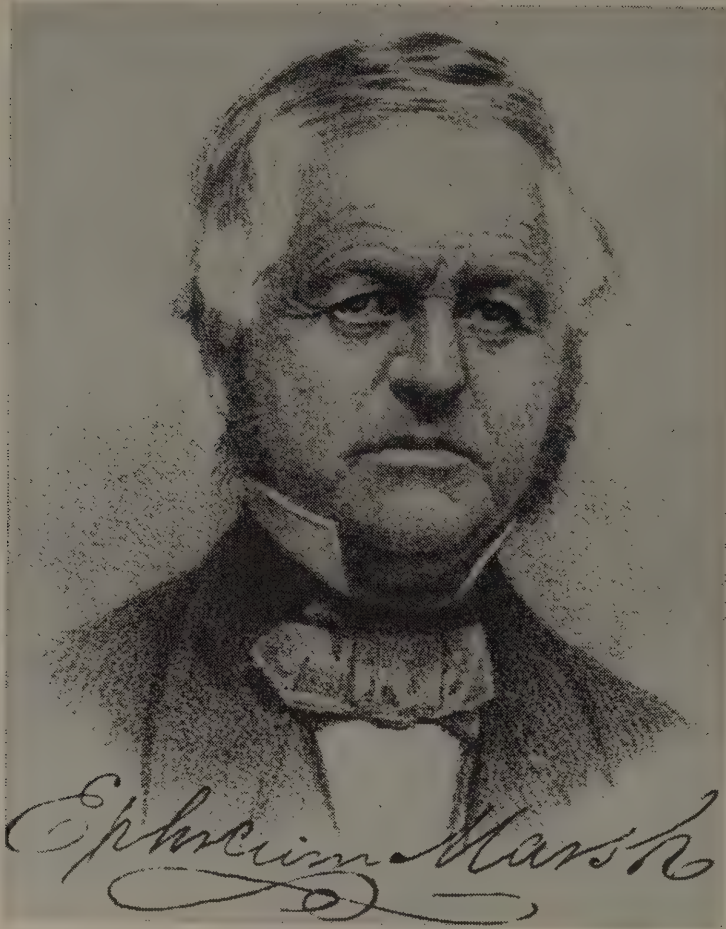
The former home of William W. Marsh, after alterations, including a generous acreage of land became in 1941 and is now (1962) the Mission Center for the Liebenzell Mission of the United States of America, Inc. The Liebenzell Mission was founded November 13, 1899, in Hamburg, Germany, for the purpose of training missionaries. It is interdenominational and operates in the Western Caroline Islands, the Admiralty Islands, the Territory of New Guinea, and Japan. At their headquarters on Schooley's Mountain there are accommodations for year-round guests. A farm is operated. Smoking is not permitted in the houses or on the premises, and visitors are asked to dress modestly. Ladies are requested not to wear slacks, shorts, or sunsuits.

Relics of the old days when the Heath House and Belmont Hall flourished in all their glory have been preserved at Schooley's Mountain by the late Harry Stelter, a textile sales agent of Manhattan in his summer residence on the road leading from the Hackettstown-Long Valley Road to the Liebenzell Mission. About 1938 he remodeled the carriage house on the Heath property as a summer residence. When the Dorincourt Hotel (formerly Belmont Hall) was razed he bought from the wreckers the large, beautifully designed main entrance doorway with fan windows in the arch and glass side panels; the main second-to-third floor stairway section with handrail and spindles; window sash, frames and window trim; paneled doors; and a mantelpiece. These he installed in his summer home, thus preserving for the present some of the Dorincourt atmosphere of the past. On the site of the old Alpha Hotel he erected a large frame woodshed. Part of this uses a foundation wall of the Alpha. An original flagstone walk runs across the lawn from where the old Heath House stood to a point where a separate dining room was once situated.

### **Ephraim Marsh**

Ephraim Marsh, the owner of the Heath House, to whose enterprise Schooley's Mountain owed much of its fame as a resort, was born at Mendham in 1796. He came to the Mountain in 1816 and for nearly fifty years he was a prominent, civic-minded citizen of Morris County. In addition to his proprietorship of the Heath House, he was interested in the Schooley's Mountain Academy around 1826. About 1832 he began to develop the mine on Mine Hill farm, which was the one chiefly worked until 1857. His interest in politics led to his election as assemblyman from Morris County in 1826 and as state senator from Morris County for 1848-50 and as president of the Senate 1849-50. For a long time he was judge of the Court of

Common Pleas in Morris County. In 1844 he was a member of the Constitutional Convention.<sup>2</sup> When the American National Council met in Philadelphia on February 19, 1856, Ephraim Marsh was one of the delegates. Except for four or five, all states were represented. After three days of stormy sessions, a party platform was adopted which included planks giving thanks to the Supreme Being for his care in the successful Revolutionary struggle; favoring the perpetuation of the Federal Union and Constitution; favoring American rule



EPHRAIM MARSH

(From the *History of Morris County, New Jersey*, by E. O. Halsey, New York, 1872.)

for America; favoring citizenship for all persons born of American parents while temporarily living abroad; favoring state rights; opposing any one for a "political station" who recognized allegiance to any foreign power, etc., etc.

On February 22, 1856, the American National Nominating Convention, composed mostly of members of the council, with 227 delegates in attendance, under the presiding officer, Ephraim Marsh of

New Jersey nominated Millard Fillmore for President of the United States and Andrew Jackson Donelson for Vice President. At the presidential election for 1856, the American Party, also known as the Know-Nothing-Party, received but eight electoral votes. It was the year that the Democratic Party selected James Buchanan and John C. Breckinridge.<sup>13</sup> Marsh, on September 10, 1856, renounced the nomination of Millard Fillmore because Fillmore's friends in Congress voted with the supporters of outrage and aggression in Kansas. Under the cover of Americanism, Fillmore and his supporters aimed at extending slavery.<sup>14</sup>

Judge Marsh's connection with the Morris Canal is perhaps better remembered than his other activities. During the 1820s when there was public enthusiasm for such waterways, when the Erie Canal was successfully built in 1825, and when the coal fields needed a means to get their anthracite coal to tidewater in order to develop markets, this was the time that plans for the Morris Canal were hatched, and it was intended principally for the transportation of hard coal. George P. McCulloch, of Morristown, while fishing in Lake Hopatcong, thought up the idea of connecting the upper Delaware River with the sea by means of a canal across the northern part of New Jersey. At that time the iron industry of Morris County, because of a lack of fuel, was in a state of decline. Many furnaces and forges had been abandoned, and it was thought that the industry would be revived by such a canal. After many conferences and surveys, a final plan was developed for the canal project, the most exceptional feature being the use of inclined planes to cut down the number of locks. The cost of the work was estimated in 1823 at about \$800,000. The State of New Jersey was not interested in building the canal, and so in December, 1824, the State Legislature incorporated the Morris Canal and Banking Company, headed by Cadwallader D. Colden as president, "to form an artificial navigation" between the Passaic and Delaware rivers. At this time there was not a railroad in the United States. For construction, \$1,000,000 worth of stock was authorized and an additional \$500,000 worth might be sold later if necessary. The par value was \$100 per share. At the end of ninety-nine years the State retained the right to take over the canal at a fair valuation. The corporation was given banking privileges in order that they might induce investors outside New Jersey to subscribe to the stock, as in New Jersey, an agricultural state, capital was scarce.

The books of the company were opened in Morristown on March 16, 1825, and the stock was subscribed eagerly, the subscriptions exceeding \$700,000. A year later the company was in financial straits because of the forfeiture of 5,808 of the 10,000 shares due to defaults in payments. The buyers were speculators who had hoped to sell their shares at an advanced figure. Construction of the canal began



in 1825, but instead of having a capital of \$1,000,000 the company only had \$250,438 in cash and \$72,000 in notes. Progress was slow because of a lack of cash, and during the first ten years of its life the company was in financial trouble. By 1833 the canal was open, and then it was discovered to be too small. It was not finally completed until 1836.

In 1844 the Morris Canal was sold under foreclosure proceedings to four residents of Essex County for \$1,000,000, but the new company could not shake off the reputation of the former company and in 1847 its president resigned. Then Asa Whitney gained control, but in 1848 their stock was sold to New Yorkers, and Ephraim Marsh was elected president. Under his reign, because of improvements in the canal and the aggressiveness of new managers, the tonnage carried by the canal, coal being the principal commodity, increased and from 1849 on a remarkable increase took place in revenues and earnings. The decade of the 1860s was its most prosperous period. The company sought also to increase its business by forming connections with railroads.<sup>15</sup> The completed canal was 102 miles long, 32 feet wide at the water line, and 20 feet at the bottom. It had a depth of 4 feet. The locks were 75 feet long and 9 feet wide, the whole being adapted to boats of 25 tons. Its water came principally from Lake Hopatcong. Inclined planes were used to overcome the higher elevations. Its over-all cost was more than \$3,500,000.

As this is not a history of the Morris Canal, we shall get back to Ephraim Marsh. For the last sixteen years of his life his energy and knowledge were devoted to the business of making the company successful and a profitable investment. He died in the summer of 1864 in his sixty-eighth year while on a visit to his only surviving son, William Wallace Marsh, on Schooley's Mountain. Ephraim Marsh had left his home in Jersey City on Saturday afternoon, August 27, 1864, for a visit to his son at Schooley's Mountain. He had complained of being unwell upon leaving home, and upon his arrival at the mountain he was so prostrated that he had to be carried to the hotel. He was attended there by Dr. Gautier, but he continued to sink rapidly and died on Sunday morning, August 28, at 6:30 of a heart attack.

The spring in 1882 was owned by his son, William W. Marsh, who was interested in the development of the iron industry and for many years was one of the directors of the Thomas Iron Company of Pennsylvania. He filled a large place in the community and took after his father in many ways. He died sometime before 1895.

• FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER V

1. Theodore Frelinghuysen Chambers, *The Early Germans of New Jersey* (Dover, 1895), pp. 173, 177.
2. E. D. Halsey, *History of Morris County, New Jersey* (New York, 1882), p. 379.

3. Gustav Kobbé, *The Central Railroad of New Jersey, An Illustrated Guide Book* (New York, 1890), pp. 72-79.
4. *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser* (Philadelphia), July 2, 1814.
5. Joseph Warren Greene, Jr., "Schooley's Mountain Springs," *Proc. N. J. Hist. Soc.*, April, 1933, pp. 176-190.
6. *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser* (Philadelphia), July 3, 1821.
7. *National Gazette and Literary Register* (Philadelphia), July 1, 1823; June 17, 1825; July 9, 1833; July 19, 1834; *Public Ledger* (Philadelphia), July 18, 1848.
8. *New-York Evening Post For the Country*, August 3, 1824.
9. *The National Gazette and Literary Register* (Philadelphia), July 17, 1827.
10. *Laws of New Jersey*. Session of 1868, pp. 45-46.
11. J. K. Hoyt, *Pen and Pencil Pictures on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad* (New York, 1874).
12. Brochure, 8 vo. in the Morristown Public Library, Morristown, N. J.
13. Horace Greeley and John F. Cleveland, *A Political Text-Book for 1860* (New York, 1860).
14. "North American," Documents published by the *Daily Express*, New York. Letter from the Hon. Ephraim Marsh, Schooley's Mountain, September 10, 1856.
15. Wheaton J. Lane, "The Morris Canal," *Proc. N. J. Hist. Soc.*, Vol. 55, 1937, pp. 214-231; 251-263.

## CHAPTER VI

### The Forest Grove House and Others

#### The Forest Grove House

The Forest Grove Hydropathic Institute at Schooley's Mountain was ready for the reception of invalids early in July of 1851.<sup>1</sup> In 1852 it was called the Schooley's Mountain Water-Cure.<sup>2</sup> So read the advertising in the New York newspapers of that time. This institute was established by Dr. William J. Taylor and Dr. William I. Moore, two physicians from High Bridge, New Jersey, who took advantage of the water-cure rage that was rampant at that time and of the number of persons visiting Schooley's Mountain Springs. Their clients came from various cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Boston, New Orleans, etc., and the venture was highly profitable. Its life was short, however, because of a dispute between the two doctors over money. This resulted in the closing of the institute and the sale of the property by Sheriff W. A. Fairchild on December 22, 1853, to David C. Noe, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, who utilized it as a summer hotel.<sup>3</sup> It was then (1854) known as the Forest Grove House. In the New Brunswick "Fredonian" of May 30, 1854, Noe, as proprietor, said that his "delightful summer retreat" would be open on June 15 and that the Morris and Essex Railroad by way of Newark ran within two and a half miles of the hotel. Conveyances met every train for the accommodation of visitors.

David Noe and his wife, Mary E. Noe, did not have the place very long, and during their short operation were not able to make it pay, as "The Jerseyman" (Morristown, N. J.) of April 18, 1857, contained the advertisement of the public sale by a Master in Chancery on May 5 of the hotel or "Summer Boarding House" known as the Forest Grove House, nearly opposite Belmont Hall, together with outbuildings and the tract of land on which it stood, which was bounded by the turnpike which passed the boardinghouse and by the lands of John Dufford and others. In all, nearly forty-seven acres were involved. John Whitenack was the complainant in the suit. At the same time household goods and chattels, consisting of furniture, beds, carpets, bedding, sofas, chairs, a piano forte, table, crockery ware, cutlery, stoves, cooking utensils, horses, wagons, a carriage, etc., belonging to the property were also to be sold at public auction.

Later in 1857 it was in the possession of William S. Cooper and Patrick Mathews of Newark who continued its life as a hotel until it



was closed by local authorities.<sup>4</sup> According to *Robinson's Atlas of Morris County* (1857), the Forest Grove House was owned or operated by William E. Smith. In the "True Democratic Banner" (Morristown, N. J.) of June 20, 1861, Patrick Mathews advertised that the Forest Grove House was ready for the summer season, having been thoroughly put in order. It was delightfully located on Schooley's Mountain. Surrounded by a wide, spreading lawn, the view was beautiful. As the proprietor had no high rent to pay, visitors could be accommodated "at as low a rate as a strict regard to the respectability of the house would afford." In comparison with rates charged by neighboring boardinghouses, Mathews' charges were moderate. Pure air, pleasant drives, fine scenery and pure chalybeate water were some of the attractions. On the Morris and Essex railroad, trains left Jersey



SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN SEMINARY  
(Courtesy of J. Harold Nunn.)

From *The Story of Hackettstown*, Hackettstown, N. J., 1955.

City at 8:30 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. for Hackettstown from which place the guests were conveyed "by first class stage" to the mountain. As the Forest Grove House did not advertise extensively in the newspapers, there is a paucity of information about it.

In 1867 or 1868 the property was sold to the Rev. Luke I. Stoutenburgh, who renovated it and established the Schooley's Mountain Seminary. This was a private school affiliated with the Presbyterian Church. It was located on the north side of the road leading from the crossroads, where the Dorincourt stood, to German Valley, now Long Valley. At one time it had two hundred boys and girls and its educational facilities were good.<sup>5</sup> The school's spring season started April 13, 1868, according to a notice in the "True Democratic Banner" (Morristown) of March 19, 1868, and continued for fourteen weeks.

There was an academic department with the branches usually taught in similar institutions, together with a course in double-entry book-keeping and a preparation for college. Instruction was given also in piano, music, painting, and crayoning. The charge for tuition, board, washing, and a furnished room was \$240 yearly or \$80 for a term of fourteen weeks. Students supplied their own towels, napkins, and napkin rings, and had to have these and their wearing apparel plainly marked. Textbooks were supplied at New York prices. The notice was signed by the Rev. L. I. Stoutenburgh. On July 25, 1868, "The Jerseyman" (Morristown) published a report of the Seminary's examining committee. At the close of the first scholastic year, Mr. Stoutenburgh had presented the public with a catalogue showing that 125 scholars had attended, 82 of which were boarders. The committee expressed gratification with the teachers and scholars and referred to the seminary as having many of the advantages of a "Christian Home."

The Rev. Stoutenburgh, born in Clinton, New York, was licensed as a minister by the New York Congregational Association in 1841. He then began to preach at Chester, New Jersey, remaining there nearly twenty-seven years. For eleven years he was the superintendent of the Chester Township public schools. On account of ill health he gave up his church and school connections and moved to Schooley's Mountain, where he bought the Forest Grove House and established his successful seminary.<sup>6</sup> While at Chester, New Jersey, he founded the Chester Institute and was its proprietor and superintendent for three years.

The advertisement of the Forest Grove House in "The Evening Journal" of Jersey City for July 5, 1879, advising readers that the place would be open for boarders from June 10 on and signed by L. I. Stoutenburgh, would appear to indicate that the place was no longer a seminary, or that it was available for boarders during the summer vacation.

After being empty for a time, the seminary building was run as a hotel for a while by a Mr. Sonneborn. Later it burned down, in 1889, and was rebuilt smaller as a summer boardinghouse. This too burned and a private residence was located on the property. After its end as a school its further history is somewhat obscure.

### **The Schooley's Mountain Academy**

The Schooley's Mountain Academy was an earlier institution which seemingly has not received much attention. This was in successful operation in 1826 with the Rev. Holloway Whitefield Hunt as principal and Ephraim Marsh probably as founder. Mr. Hunt was the son of the Rev. H. W. Hunt, a well-liked preacher of Hunterdon County. The son was born at Sparta, New Jersey, January 8, 1799. After



graduating from Princeton College in 1820 he studied one year at the Princeton Theological Seminary. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Newton on October 4, 1821 and ordained by the same body on November 29, 1823. He remained at Schooley's Mountain Academy until he became the minister at Pleasant Grove, where he stayed from 1832 to 1860, also becoming pastor of the Second Mansfield Presbyterian Church of Rockport from 1852 to 1860. His death took place January 29, 1868, eight years after he resigned his pastorates.<sup>7</sup>

At the Academy, one could prepare either for business or college, and such branches as Latin, Greek, mathematics, mechanics, grammar, language, geography, etc., were taught. The terms were \$100 per year. This included board, tuition, washing and "every necessary except books." The tuition fee, \$12.50 semi-annually, had to be paid in advance. The winter session started October 31 and lasted until April 1, at which time a public examination was held and "rewards of approbation" were "bestowed on deserving pupils." Persons wishing to enroll their children were advised to make application either to E. Marsh, Esq., or to the Rev. H. Whitefield Hunt, A. M.<sup>8</sup>

### The Mountain House

An 1850 directory notice called our attention to the Mountain House at Schooley's Mountain under the proprietorship of B. Carzett. This was probably a boardinghouse located at Springtown, on the road between Schooley's Mountain and German Valley, about one-half way between German Valley and Belmont Hall. This property is located on the 1868 *Atlas of Morris County, New Jersey* by Beers, Ellis and Soule, and also on the 1887 *Atlas of Morris County* by Robinson, under the name "B. Corzatt." Springtown is about three miles from the mineral spring. It is recorded by Gordon as having, around 1830, six or eight dwellings. Carzett's hotel or boardinghouse probably got some of the overflow at times from the large hotels closer to Schooley's Mineral Spring.

#### FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER VI

1. *The New York Daily Tribune*, July 9, 1851.
2. *Ibid.*, April 6, 1852.
3. Joseph Warren Greene, Jr., "Schooley's Mountain Springs," *Proc. N. J. Hist. Soc.*, Vol. 51, pp. 176-190.
4. Henry C. Beck, *The Sunday Star-Ledger* (Newark, N. J.), November 20, 1955.
5. J. Harold Nunn, *The Story of Hackettstown, New Jersey, 1754-1955* (Hackettstown, 1955), p. 85.
6. E. D. Halsey, *History of Morris County, New Jersey* (New York, 1882).
7. Theodore Frelinghuysen Chambers, *The Early Germans of New Jersey* (Dover, 1895), p. 187.
8. *Sussex Register* (Newton, N. J.), October 30, 1826.



## CHAPTER VII

### Some Visitors to Schooley's Mountain Mineral Springs

The financial success and popularity of the early mineral spring resorts depended to a large extent upon the social prominence, wit, charm and gaiety of their guests. Valetudinarians alone were not enough. More was needed such as fashionable and exclusive personages along with guests who liked to bask in the reflected glory of important persons. During the early years when accommodations were scarce and when guests were mostly people with aches and pains, the mineral water, the scenery, the climate and the enforced rest probably sufficed, but after 1820 when the two large hotels were in operation, when transportation facilities had improved, when guests became numerous and had to be entertained with something besides waterfalls and trees, then Schooley's Mountain had its share of current celebrities from the fields of fashion, royalty, politics, government, and society.

Mention has been made of Dr. Henry M. Muhlenberg who tested the virtues of the Schooley's Mountain spring waters upon himself while visiting the place in 1770, and of the statement in Jedidiah Morse's *Geography* (1789) relative to "invalids from every quarter" who were attracted by the virtues of the chalybeate waters. Samuel Mickle of Woodbury, New Jersey, clerk of the Friends Meeting at Woodbury, and one of New Jersey's famous diarists, during the first year of his diary, 1792, made the following entry on June 17, "Samuel Ladd, Jr., who is also complaining of stone in the bladder, proposes my going with him to Schooley's Mount." Such was the esteem and reputation of its mineral waters by that year.<sup>1</sup>

The old aristocratic families of Philadelphia patronized the iron waters at Schooley's long after the Revolution, arriving in large coaches drawn by four or six horses. On the first day their travel took them to New Hope, Pennsylvania. On the second day they crossed the Delaware River and traveled over the Old York Road to Pluckemin, New Jersey, and on the third day they reached the mountain.

Judge Coxe, wealthy grandson of Daniel Coxe, one of the Proprietors of West Jersey, was a visitor to Schooley's Mountain.<sup>1</sup> M. F. Sweetser, in his *Handbook of the United States* (1891), is author of the statement that, "The Heath House was opened as a summer-resort in 1793, and Gen. Washington spent part of a season here. His room and furniture are kept just as he left them." We

have been unable to either prove or disprove this remark. The succeeding advertisements of the Heath House never mentioned such an occurrence.

In 1793 one of Philadelphia's noted physicians, Dr. Jonathan Ingham, who had contracted yellow fever in that city, died at Clinton, New Jersey, on October 1 while on his way to Schooley's Mountain with his wife and slave, Cato. Duke Liancourt La Rochefoucauld (1747-1827) the eminent French nobleman and philanthropist who journeyed in North America 1795-1797, visited Hackettstown in June, 1797, and the nearby iron spring three miles away, this being Schooley's Mountain Spring of chalybeate water. He found it to be much frequented in the summer and said that it would be more so if better fitted up to receive visitors. He also mentioned a dispute between two persons over the ownership of the land on which the spring was located. An old cask standing in the open air and covered by some willow trees was the common bathing place. Lodgings near the spring were absent and those who visited the place to drink the waters



Map of Schooley's Mountain showing locations of the Heath House, Belmont Hall, Forest Grove House, etc.  
(From Robinson's Atlas of Morris County, New Jersey, 1887.)

had to find living quarters in neighboring farmhouses. An account of Rochefoucauld's journeys appeared in eight volumes in 1798 entitled *Voyage dans les Etats-Unis d' Amerique*.

Among the distinguished visitors to Schooley's Mountain were General Philemon Dickinson, soldier and statesman; Peter D. Vroom who began to practice law at Schooley's Mountain but later moved to Hackettstown, then to Flemington, and Somerville, and finally to Trenton, member of the Assembly from Somerset County, elected governor of New Jersey in 1829 and in two succeeding years, and holder of various political appointments. On June 18, 1810, Lucy Evans, wife of Jesse Evans, manager of the Martha Furnace Company, Washington Township, Burlington County, started for Schooley's Mountain, this being recorded in the Martha Furnace Daybook, a transcript being in Rutgers University Library; Jacques Gérard Milbert of France, who in 1815 during a trip to this country sketched the rock from which the spring flowed and the cataract, a feature of beauty on the mountain;<sup>2</sup> the distinguished Joseph Bonaparte from his county seat at Bordentown, in coach and four with his retinue of grooms, servants and footmen, who arrived at Belmont Hall in July, 1820, a month after it opened, and who in later years often stopped at Schooley's on his way to Saratoga.<sup>3</sup>

Among the guests from New Jersey who stayed at Belmont Hall were Garret Dorset Wall, lawyer, soldier, statesman; William Lewis Dayton, lawyer, statesman and minister to France in Lincoln's administration; Governor William Pennington; Samuel L. Southard, lawyer, United States senator, Governor of New Jersey; Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen, lawyer, United States senator, president of Rutgers College, etc. From New York there were Jacob LeRoy; C. B. S. Roosevelt; ex-Governor E. D. Morgan; Rev. Dr. Spencer; H. Cone, etc. From Pennsylvania, John Sargent, one-time presidential candidate; ex-Governor Edward Coles; Vice President George M. Dallas; Dr. George B. Wood; Richard Vaux, etc. From other parts of the country came visitors just as prominent. David Sargent of Philadelphia was an annual visitor for forty years, and equally constant for nearly as long was Professor Ruggles of Washington, D. C. These regular visitors included those who were not intrigued by the glitter and glare of Saratoga, Newport and Long Branch. Many of them visited the mountain for twenty or thirty summer seasons.<sup>4</sup>

During July, 1824, the wife of Samuel Miller, professor in the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church of Princeton, New Jersey, visited Schooley's Mountain with her invalid daughter Elizabeth. Although their trip was due to the illness of the daughter, both mother and daughter made the visit an occasion to plan for the erection of a church at the Mountain. They stayed at the Heath



House, and the absence of religious facilities for the inhabitants and guests worried them. There was a church at Hackettstown, four miles away, and one at German Valley, but both were unhandy to reach. Mrs. Miller and her daughter suggested that a small place of worship be built near the boardinghouses to be under the supervision of the Rev. Joseph Campbell, pastor of the Hackettstown church. As a result of the combined efforts of Ephraim Marsh and several other persons, a plastered, two-storied, stone building, 40 x 35 feet with a cupola was put up. The upper part was used as a Sunday School and as a day school during the week. It was near the two boardinghouses. On August 8, 1825, it was opened in the afternoon by Mr. Campbell, who preached a "solemn and impressive sermon." Elizabeth Miller died on September 5 of that year.<sup>4</sup>

In 1828 Constantine Samuel Rafinesque, famous naturalist and explorer, visited the Schooley's Mountain spring for a week and found the water to be "useful to his health."<sup>5</sup> Chief Justice Hornblower, David B. Ogden, and Gideon B. Lee, mayor of New York, were guests at the Heath House in 1832.<sup>6</sup> Two other visitors, not guests and not so prominent but entertaining nonetheless, were Joseph L. Lee and his neighbor, John Convil, from Owltown, a part of Fairmount, Hunterdon County. Joe Lee fiddled at dances, schoolhouses and in private homes, and when Schooley's Mountain was flourishing the pair would travel there. While Joe played his violin for the wealthy visitors, John would catch woodcock and sell them to the hotel. Every year would find them there, usually after July 4. One of Joe's favorite ditties about himself, especially for the children, was:

Joe Lee is a fine old man  
He washed his face in the frying pan.  
He combed his hair with an engine wheel  
And died with the toothache in his heel.<sup>7</sup>

Mrs. J. Warren Coleman (Ida Palmer Coleman, widow of J. Warren Coleman, the son of William E. Coleman the last Heath House proprietor), of Lakewood, Ohio, who has the Heath House register in her possession, has advised us that in July, 1838, R. A. Hunt, probably one of the numerous Hunts of Schooley's Mountain and nearby, stayed at the Heath House. In 1843 the registrations included those of C. Roosevelt and James A. Roosevelt of New York and other members of this family, such as C. V. S. Roosevelt, S. W. Roosevelt, T. and R. B. Roosevelt and Theodore Roosevelt, Esq., with no addresses. On August 24, 1843, ex-Governor Isaac H. Williamson of "Elizabeth-Town," New Jersey, stayed at the Heath House, and in July, 1845, Clement C. Moore, author of "The Night Before Christmas," was a guest.

In 1854 when the old Heath House was taken over by Albert De Groot, a former Hudson River steamboat captain and manager of

the Prescott House in New York, some of the guests who registered in August included Governor Rodman M. Price, Secretary of State Thomas S. Allison, Attorney General Richard Q. Thompson, Chancellor Benjamin Williamson, Treasurer Moore Smith, Chief Justice Greene, William Van Buren, Colonel Jarvis Perine, Colonel William Babbitt, James Bishop, General Cadwallader, and Frederick T. Frelinghuysen.

People from all walks of life visited Schooley's Mountain during the summer months, drank the mineral water, stayed for a few days, weeks or longer, enjoyed the walks and drives and then returned home. One such person was Elizabeth Eastburn (b. July 15, 1838), one of the three daughters of John and Sarah Eastburn of Wrightstown Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Elizabeth, who attended Attleborough Academy when she was nineteen years old in 1857, was taken by her father and mother in August, 1858, when she was twenty, for a visit to Schooley's Mountain. She kept a diary of the trip. They started on August 14 and went through Lambertville, New Jersey, to Ringoes, stopping there to rest at the tavern. From there they drove on to Flemington where they put up for the night at Crater's Hotel. After supper they sat in the hotel parlor and listened to a girl playing the piano. Continuing their trip on the next day they stopped at New Germantown and finally came in sight of Schooley's Mountain. They drove down into German Valley and then through it up a very long hill to the top of the mountain, arriving tired and hungry at J. Hunt's boardinghouse about three o'clock in the afternoon. They were served tea, bread and butter, stewed peaches, fresh soda crackers, and two or three kinds of cakes. In the evening they had a very good supper. Then they walked to the spring and drank the water, which Elizabeth did not like. The spring was reached down hill over a winding, wild road. The water came out of a rock and there was a small house over the spring. Elizabeth and her mother retired early and missed seeing a dance that followed the arrival of a wedding party attended by some ladies who arrived on horseback. After breakfast on August 16, they drove to the spring in their carriage, drank some water and enjoyed the mountain scenery. On a drive through the yard of the Heath House they saw the guests "dressed up and walking around." In her diary Elizabeth refers to the "three large boarding houses," Heath House, Belmont Hall and Forest Grove, as "quite pretty places with nice walks." After their tour the family returned "home" and "dressed for dinner."

On August 17, a clear and warm day, Mr. and Mrs. Eastburn went to the spring before breakfast, after which all three drove to the store and made some purchases. As they passed the boardinghouses they saw the "waiting maids" walking around with children and remarked that it was a grand thing to have servants to take care

of young folks. After visiting the spring and listening to the talk of the few persons who were there they returned to their boardinghouse, which was more homelike than any of the three hotels. Mrs. Hunt was a pleasant woman. During the afternoon Elizabeth walked around Forest Grove, which did not seem to have many boarders. Near the Heath House she saw several folks "riding out" and walking. It appeared to her that many persons drove to the resort, but not to stay. On August 18 the family drove to Budd Lake, seven miles from the springs, where they enjoyed the scenery around the "three-mile-long" lake, a trip on the lake in a boat rowed by a Negro, and a meal at a boardinghouse on top of a hill overlooking the lake, where Elizabeth was impressed by the table service and the meal served by negro servants. They returned to Schooley's Mountain by way of Hackettstown, arriving around dark after which they had a small supper.

On the next day, August 19, Elizabeth took a little walk on the mountain and her father "geared up the horse and went to the spring for water." For dinner they had roast beef, gravy, potatoes, stewed green apples, which she found "very good indeed." Then they sat around and talked. She and another girl, a niece of another guest, went to the Heath House and watched the dancing. Four Negroes played musical instruments and the "little girls and boys danced and flew around" in a very large room, "lighted up very pretty."

They started for home about ten o'clock on the morning of August 20, headed for Easton, and stopped at Washington on the way. After crossing the Delaware they put up at the National Hotel. For dinner they had tea, coffee, bread, butter, cheese, dried beef, and "cucumbers cut up like pickles" which she "could not bear." However, the stewed blackberries and sponge cake were very good. After a walk through the town, on her way back to the hotel she was scared by two monkeys. After buying a pair of kid gloves she returned to the tavern and finally went to bed. After a day in Easton they started for home at eight o'clock the next morning, driving down the "winding romantic" road along the Delaware, passing through Pt. Pleasant, coming to Lumberville where they left the river road to take a new road which brought them home about eight o'clock in the evening.<sup>8</sup>

A trip from Princeton, New Jersey, to Schooley's Mountain was made by Henry E. Hale, 1st, in 1859. He started from his home in Princeton on July 21, in company with his sister, Mary Otis Hale. On the train trip from Princeton to Newark they were joined by Peter Bruere and Mrs. Peter Bruere and Mary Howard. Arriving at Newark they took an omnibus trip to another station where they boarded a train for Hackettstown, arriving there at five o'clock in the afternoon. Then they rode in a carriage for an hour and a half over hills and through valleys until they arrived at a fine boardinghouse



known as the Heath House on Schooley's Mountain. Here, after exhausting the patience of the proprietors they were assigned to adjoining rooms on the first floor. After supper, which was good, they retired to the "saloon" where they watched big and little folk dance and heard music by colored men who served as waiters during mealtimes. At 10:30 P.M. the entertainment was over and they went to their various rooms. After breakfast, Henry Hale, his sister and Mary Howard took a walk down the mountain to the mineral spring, the water from which flowed out of a "spout" placed in the rocks. It was not pleasant to taste. During the afternoon Mr. Hale played tenpins with Peter Bruere. After this uneventful visit they departed for Niagara Falls.<sup>9</sup>

In an old Belmont Hall register now owned by Miss Louise Blake of Schooley's Mountain, an entry on August 30, 1873, is signed "U. S. Grant and Daughter, Long Branch" in a bold, conspicuous hand. Mrs. George L. Blake, who was a summer resident of Schooley's Mountain for more than forty years, found the signatures of her father and brother in the 1860 to 1888 guest book of Belmont Hall, which had been in her possession some thirty-five years. Mrs. Blake was interviewed around 1937 or 1938 when she was ninety years of age. In the brochure issued by the Dorincourt (previously Belmont Hall) for the season of 1902, John C. Calhoun and Daniel Webster are named as one-time guests, along with those previously listed.

Schooley's Mountain was included in Guy La Tourette's account of *A North Jersey Jaunt* published about 1879. After paying five cents to a tollgate keeper in the Ramapos and twenty-five cents to a hostler at the entrance to the Heath House, La Tourette and his companion were glad to see "a bath room, two towels in a bedroom and a nice bill of fare." As the season had not fairly commenced, the Heath House had only a few guests. They dined in a small parlor and walked to the spring, "a proceeding which rather astonished everyone who heard of it, as nobody who goes to the hotel for water ever thinks of drinking it, any more than the audiences at Thomas' Concerts listen to the music, or the stockholders at the Academy to an opera, when the prima donna is off the stage." They found the spring "a gentle rill issuing from beneath an immense boulder of trap rock, beautifully draped with Virginia creeper and other running plants, carpeted with mosses, leaves and grasses, and bespangled with flowers, into a mean-looking tin basin, much discolored by a deposit of oxide of iron." The spring, whose discharge was about thirty gallons hourly, was enclosed in a "ruinous wooden hut nearly hacked to pieces by the usual scribblers." It was situated "in a wild gorge, half a mile from the hotel, a charming spot for lounging of a moonlight night, when the din of a rivulet that leaps down the ravine is loud enough to drown the ephemeral remarks of the loving couples who



music to which no one listened. At six o'clock, a drive, at seven a cold supper and then dancing until ten, at which time everyone went to bed. The visitors mentioned the variety of beautiful drives in the vicinity and also a "great many concrete houses in the country, all more or less ruinous, some cracked from top to bottom, everything seemed to be in the last stages of decay." Probably stucco is meant instead of concrete. After sending someone for mineral water one morning after a night of rain, they decided that the messenger had filled the bottle at the first puddle. They left the Heath House seated behind a beautifully groomed white mare with good-natured Mr. Coleman waving them "a benignant adieu."<sup>10</sup>

A special meeting of the New Jersey Historical Society was held on September 2, 1886, in the Presbyterian Church at Schooley's Mountain. The Society convened at noon and among the papers presented was one by the Rev. B. C. Magie of Dover on the history of the mountain from the days when the Indians frequented the medicinal spring down to recent times. Dr. Magie's paper was never published in the Society's proceedings, and it has not been discovered in the Society's archives. At a meeting of the Society in Trenton, New Jersey, on January 25, 1887, the executive committee reported that on September 2 of the preceding year the Society had been royally entertained free of charge by the proprietors of the Heath House and Belmont Hall. In appreciation the executive committee donated to each hotel ten volumes of the Society's *Archives* and received a letter of thanks from J. Warren Coleman on behalf of the Heath House.<sup>11</sup> Apparently Belmont Hall did not appreciate the *Archives*.

#### FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER VII

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2. Jacques Gérard Milbert, *Itinéraire Pittoresque du Fleuve Hudson et des Parties Latérales*.
3. Anon., "History of Old Dorincourt Recalls Colorful Old Days," *Hackettstown Gazette*, July 29, 1938.
4. E. D. Halsey, *History of Morris County, New Jersey* (New York, 1882); Miriam Studley, "Vacation Spots When Newark Was Younger," *Newark Sunday News*, June 26, 1949; Samuel Miller, *The Life of Samuel Miller* (Philadelphia, 1869), Vol. II, pp. 102-104.
5. C. S. Rafinesque, "A Life of Travels," *Chronica Botanica* (1944), Vol. 8, No. 2.
6. Joseph Warren Greene, Jr., *Proc. N. J. Hist. Soc.*, 51:187, 1933.
7. Freeman Leigh, *Historic Notes on Fairmount, New Jersey* (1922), p. 66.
8. Diary of Elizabeth Eastburn, Library of Bucks County (Pa.) Historical Society, Doylestown, Pa. Also *Births, Deaths, and Burials, Wrightstown Monthly Meeting, 1684-1940*, Vol. XI, Bucks Co. Hist. Soc., 1941.
9. "A Trip From Princeton to Schooley's Mountain, Niagara Falls and Albany," *Proc. N. J. Hist. Soc.*, April, 1944, pp. 75-79.
10. Guy La Tourette, *A North Jersey Jaunt* (n.d.n.p., c. 1879), pp. 65-75.
11. Mary Schooley Ivey, *A Pioneer Schooley Family* (The Franklin Press, Inc., Miami, Florida, 1941), 61 p.; *Proc. N. J. Hist. Soc.*, 2nd Ser., 1886-87, Vol. IX, pp. 105, 111.



## CHAPTER VIII

### The Mineral Springs of Atlantic, Bergen and Burlington Counties

#### Atlantic County

##### *Hammonton's Iron Spring*

Around 1900 Hammonton was being publicized as a health resort. From 1850 to 1900 it had been a sort of haven for persons suffering from pulmonary diseases, and attention was again directed to its iron or chalybeate spring, the waters of which had been analyzed by "State Assayer" C. T. Jackson of Boston in 1857 and found to contain per imperial gallon, peroxide of iron 13.63 grains, crenic acid and apocrenic acid (with traces of sulphate of lime) 2.40 grains. Crenic acid occurs in vegetable mold and forms apocrenic acid by oxidation. Such water was suitable in cases where iron salts were administered. In addition, the fine drinking water of Hammonton, which came from four wells, each nearly three hundred feet deep, plus the effects of the climate, were supposedly beneficial to persons affected with phthisis, asthma, insomnia, chronic intestinal catarrh, and some kidney and bladder diseases. As Hammonton, equidistant between Philadelphia and Atlantic City, was in the "Pine Belt," it was thought that "the antiseptic character of the atmosphere" was useful in curing consumption. In fact a Professor Loomis advocated the planting of evergreens around residences to further promote the antiseptic effects of the atmosphere. Evergreen hedges were plentiful in Hammonton at that time.

The water of the Hammonton "iron spring" was compared favorably with the famous waters at Schwalbach in Prussia, and the effect of the water was said to be remarkable upon anemic and debilitated patients. Although not so strong as Saratoga waters, numerous cases of actual cures of renal calculi were credited to the waters. Such was the information gained from the "International Medical Magazine" for May, 1901, as reported by a booklet issued at one time by the Hammonton Board of Trade.

The Dryden Springs Mineral Water Company, incorporated June 5, 1899, was authorized to acquire lands and buildings in Hammonton, New Jersey, and in Dryden (Tompkins County), New York, or elsewhere, and to purchase, make and deal in mineral water, to establish bottling works, shops, etc., and in particular to acquire the business then carried on by Dr. S. S. Nivison in Hammonton and

Dryden. The incorporators were Dr. S. S. Nivison, L. A. Gilbert, both of Hammonton, and Eli H. Chandler, Atlantic City, each of whom subscribed to five shares of stock. The company was capitalized for \$125,000, 1,250 shares at \$100 per share. Their principal office was at Atlantic and New York avenues, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

An "Indian Spring" near Weymouth, New Jersey, which has been flowing for centuries and was still in 1945 a source of drinking water for nearby persons, should be mentioned although it does not appear to have gained a reputation by reason of its mineral qualities.

A "sulphur" spring at Weymouth is recalled by Captain Charles I. Wilson of the Delaware River Port Authority. This spring, about five feet long and two feet wide, was located near the ruins of an old paper mill along Weymouth Road north of Black Horse Pike, at the bottom of a ten-foot drop from the road level. Captain Wilson's recollection goes back to around 1922 when the stones encircling the spring were encrusted with a yellow deposit that resembled sulphur. Many persons filled their jugs with the water which had a "sulphur" taste. The spring was still flowing in 1939.

Mr. John H. Mohrfeld, 3d, former assistant United States attorney, of Camden, also remembers this spring as a boy around 1925. While driving with his parents to the New Jersey seacoast the group would stop regularly at the picturesque paper mill ruins at Weymouth and refresh themselves with the cool spring water. He recalls the yellowish coating on the inner walls of the spring and the very noticeable "sulphurous" odor. On August 13, 1961, Mr. Mohrfeld made a special trip to Weymouth to locate the spring for us, but found that it had disappeared. The enclosure where it had existed was covered with the debris of civilization.

### Bergen County

The Spring Valley region of Bergen County is fed by a number of springs, which in 1868 were of considerable size and power. One, the Washington Spring, was noted because of its great depth. This spring, it is said, supplied water for our troops in this section during the Revolutionary War. Because General Washington was fond of the water, the spring was named after him. The only spring definitely referred to as mineral was one on the land of Mr. Van Dolsen near the upper end of the valley. This is shown in the *Atlas of Bergen County*, 1868.

On January 3, 1905, the Kanouse Mountain Water Company, with an office at 1 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, incorporated under the New Jersey Incorporation Act, with a perpetual existence. The capital stock was \$100,000; par value \$100 per share. The company started business with \$4,200. On May 29, 1911, the amount of capital stock was increased to \$125,000. This apparently was the

company set up to operate the Kanouse Mountain Spring, Franklin Lake Road, or Long Hill Road, belonging to Richard Morrell, father of Richard W. Morrell. In 1924 the company was still in business with its address Oakland Spring P. O. In 1878, according to the "Business Directory of Central New Jersey" (Bayonne, N. J., 1878), there was an A. Kanouse of Dover who sold mineral water and was the proprietor of the Farmers' Hotel, livery, sales and exchange stables.

The following list of springs from which water was sold was compiled principally from U. S. Geological Survey reports of mineral waters marketed for various years. The dates given are for the years the water companies reported and do not necessarily mean that the companies ceased business when dates are not given. It is believed that the waters were sold as table waters.

Belmar Spring, P. O. Ridgewood, 1924 (Fitch).

Kanouse Oakland Spring, Oakland, 1905, 1906.

Oakland Spring, Oakland, 1899, 1900.

Oakland Vernon Spring, Oakland, 1905.

Pilgrim Spring, Ridgefield Park P. O., 1924 (Fitch).

Pine Lawn Spring, Hohokus P. O., 1898 to 1900.

Once used as a resort, according to Fitch.

Red Rock Spring, Spring Valley Road, 1904 to 1906.

P. O. Hackensack in 1924 (Fitch).

Trinity Springs, Ridgefield Borough, 1902, 1905, 1906.

## **Burlington County**

### *Lumberton*

The Mineral Spring Hotel of Lumberton, New Jersey, still stands as a reminder of former times. It is now owned and operated as a tourist home by Mrs. Mary D. Otter. On August 30, 1936, Ella Conrow, a former schoolteacher at Fosterton, New Jersey, wrote to John Buswell, Mrs. Otter's next door neighbor, about the Mineral Spring Hotel and told him that its name came from the fact that the water in its wells had a decided mineral taste. Some of the hotel proprietors were Ralph Voorhees, Benjamin Davidson, Isaac Bozarth, and E. W. Brick, the last one having lost his liquor license because, so Ella Conrow said, the Methodist Episcopal preacher, Mr. Bearmore, Nathan Crispin, and the Good Templars worked together to block his request for renewal. However, townspeople say that Brick lost out because many residents did not want two taverns operating in the small town. Mr. Brick, who was the proprietor around 1876, was the last to operate the hotel as such, and as Brick wanted to sell his property at that time, one is forced to conclude that the mineral quality of his well water had no appeal to his patrons.

In the Philadelphia "Public Ledger" of July 2, 1849, a summer boardinghouse was advertised at Lumberton, New Jersey, at the head



of Rancocas Creek. This was reached by the steamboat Barclay, which left the Arch Street wharf in Philadelphia every day. For particulars about the boardinghouse, one was supposed to ask the steamboat captain or George Davis, on the premises at Lumberton. Nothing was said about the mineral water.

### *Mount Holly and Vicinity*

It is difficult at this late date to identify and locate specifically the various mineral springs of Mount Holly and vicinity. All we can do is to put down the records as we have found them and trust that they



#### THE MINERAL SPRING HOTEL AT LUMBERTON

(From J. D. Scott's *Historical Atlas of Burlington County, New Jersey*, Philadelphia, 1876.)

refer to different springs. In October, 1771, "A plantation, situate on Rancocas Creek (well known by the name of the Spaw) near Mount Holly, Burlington county, West New-Jersey, containing about 158 acres . . . and an extraordinary spaw-spring near the house, none to exceed it perhaps in America" was offered for sale, together with property in Philadelphia, "the whole being part of the real estate of John Hatkinson, late of Mount Holly, deceased."<sup>1</sup>

On May 7, 1838, and November 2, 1843, a notice appeared in the "New Jersey Mirror" of Mount Holly calling attention to a forthcoming public sale of the mansion house and farm belonging to the estate of William Richards, deceased, known by the name of St. Domingo. It was situated within a half mile of Mount Holly on the road to Vincentown and Pemberton. It contained a little more than eighty-two acres and in addition to a two-story brick house and kitchen, stables, pump, etc., there were on the property "several Chalybeate Springs." The first notice was signed by the executors, Samuel, Thomas and B. W. Richards, and the last one by William Richards. One wonders if William Richards, the dominant figure of the Batsto Iron Works, had knowledge of these springs when he retired in 1809 and went to Mount Holly to live.<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Zachariah Read in his *Annals of Mount Holly* wrote in 1859 of the large mansion on Pine Street built by William Richards about 1818 and called "St. Domingo," and of the former owners of the property. William Richards, Jr., succeeded his father, and when he moved away Charles Bispham became the owner. There were other changes also which need not be mentioned here, but what is important is the following statement by Dr. Read, "Around is a steep hill, formerly covered with wood, and below is a most excellent chalybeate spring which oozes from the bank. Here in bygone days was a building known as 'The Bath.' This was covered with thick foliage and was a great resort in the summer season for the ladies and gentlemen of the town. Here upon a warm afternoon, a repast was prepared and the time was spent in a most agreeable manner. Of late years the trees and bushes have been removed and a death blow given to this most agreeable spot. I well remember attending, when quite young, one of these parties and the recollection is of the most agreeable character."<sup>3</sup> George DeCou in his book, *The Historic Rancocas*, 1949, suspected that the chalybeate spring was on Pine Street south of the Rancocas on the San Domingo Tract, but did not know of its exact location.

Captain Thomas Truxtun of the frigate "Constellation" in the naval war between the United States and France owned an estate in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, from 1795 to 1807 and also property in Philadelphia and a home there from 1778 until his death in 1822. He spent many years in New Jersey, and in addition to his Perth Amboy property he owned a farm near Cranbury called Cranberry Place, which he traded for a farm near Moorestown in 1812. This was within ten miles of Cooper's Ferry and near Mount Holly. It was also "within 600 yards of a Mineral Spring and 4 miles to the Newly Celebrated Mineral Spring of George Githens, Esq., (at Colestown) much resorted to by the Citizens of Philadelphia which spring has a bathing house &c. to Accomodate the public &c."<sup>4</sup> One wonders

## **PUBLIC SALE. MINERAL SPRING FARM.**

THE subscriber will sell at Public Vendue, (unless previously disposed of,) on Seventh-day the 31st of 8th Month, (August) Instant, at 2 o'clock, P. M., the place known as the MINERAL SPRING FARM, situated on the road leading from Mount Holly to Rancocas, about 1 mile from the former and 3 from the latter place, and lying on the Rancocas Creeek. The said Farm contains upwards of FORTY ACRES, most of which is upland, divided into fields of convenient size, well watered, and in a good state of cultivation. The improvements consist of two Tenant Houses, and a Barn. On the place is a good *Mineral Spring*, and the ground being high and airy, and the Creek celebrated for Bathing, renders the situation desirable for the erection of a *Boarding House*, there being communication to Philadelphia, daily.

Also, at the same time and place, all the *Farming Stock and Utensils*, Consisting of 1 pair superior grey Horses, 3 Shoats, 1 Carriage with Harness for single or double, 1 light Dearborn Wagon and Harness, 1 Farm Wagon and Gears, 1 single and 1 double Plough, 3 Harrows—Hay by the ton, from 11 to 12 acres of Corn in the ground, &c., &c.

The sale will take place on the premises, when attendance will be given and the conditions made known by

**SAMUEL C. HENSZEY..**

**Eighth Month 8th, 1844.**

**2-ts**

MINERAL SPRING FARM

(From the "New Jersey Mirror and Burlington County Advertiser," Mount Holly, N. J., of August 22, 1844.)



where these unnamed and poorly described mineral springs were located. If Captain Truxtun had known that his letters were going to be read one hundred and fifty years after being written, he might have been more specific.

In an advertisement of the private sale in 1825 of the Green Hill or Pitfield farm situated on the road "leading from Mount Holly to Burlington and about 3 miles from either place," mention is made of a suitable part of the one hundred acre farm being in arable, meadow and woodland "with 3 excellent Mineral Springs." For

### Mineral Water.

**T**HE subscriber hereby informs the public, and particularly those who are afflicted, that he has some excellent mineral springs in the vicinity of Mount Holly, in the state of New Jersey, about 20 miles from the city of Philadelphia; being a healthy and agreeable situation. The water is pleasant to the taste; has been examined by several eminent physicians, who found it to be highly impregnated with iron; and he is of opinion, that it is not surpassed, if equalled in salubrity, by any within that distance of the said city. He has a commodious plunging bath erected; and will, if encouraged, immediately provide a shower-bath. Convenient accommodations will be provided for such as choose to visit the springs upon reasonable terms. Several persons have already been relieved of rheumatisms, hectic fevers, &c. by bathing in and drinking of this water.

*Stacy Budd.*

**N. B.** A stage waggon goes twice a week, from Daniel Cooper's Ferry, Jersey, to Mount Holly, and returns as often. The stage men put up at Market Street Ferry, Philadelphia. 1aw7

#### STACY BUDD'S MINERAL SPRING

(From "Dunlap's American Daily Advertiser," Philadelphia, Pa., of July 2, 1792.)

particulars, one was expected to inquire of Robert Pitfield, cashier of the Bank of the Northern Liberties in Philadelphia or of George Aaronson, Burlington, New Jersey.<sup>5</sup> If the three springs were halfway between Mount Holly and Burlington in a straight line, they would lie in the vicinity of what is now Deacons.

Twenty-five years later, or in 1850, when the Daniel S. Zelley farm was advertised for sale, it was stated that the tract contained "an excellent spring of mineral water." The farm was situated in

Burlington County "adjoining the village of Jacksonville, within 4 miles of Mount Holly, and 5 miles from the city of Burlington."<sup>6</sup> If one traveled between Mount Holly and Burlington by way of Jacksonville, this mineral spring also would be approximately half-way between the two places.

Another mineral spring whose exact location is a mystery to us is the one mentioned by Mrs. Kammerer when she advertised her boardinghouse in the City of Burlington, located on Green Bank on the margin of the Delaware River, mentioning in 1810 the advantages of the fashionable and cultivated society of Burlington, the public library, the excellent schools, the market, the daily post, the fishing and fowling nearby, the land and water transportation between Philadelphia and Burlington, and finally "in the city of Burlington a mineral fountain, highly reputed."<sup>7</sup>

Another mineral spring in the vicinity of Mount Holly was advertised by Stacy Budd in "Dunlap's American Daily Advertiser" (Philadelphia) of July 2, 1792. The exact location is not given but it was about twenty miles from Philadelphia in a "healthy and agreeable situation." The spring water was pleasant to the taste and several doctors who examined it found it to be "highly impregnated with iron." Stacy Budd had a commodious plunging bath erected and if encouraged he was willing to provide a shower bath. Convenient accommodations were to be provided upon reasonable terms for visitors to the springs, and several persons had already been relieved of rheumatism, hectic fevers, etc., by bathing in and drinking the water. A stage ran twice weekly from Daniel Cooper's Ferry (Camden) to Mount Holly and returned as often.

Stacy Budd, the owner of this mineral spring, was a physician who was born in 1740. He studied medicine under Dr. Alexander Ross of Burlington and his step-father, Dr. Thomas Say of Philadelphia, and married Sarah Munro, daughter of J. Munro, a landowner of much prominence in Mount Holly. Dr. Budd, after practicing for a year in Moorestown, returned to Mount Holly, remaining there until his death on February 13, 1804. One of his ten children, Sarah, married Samuel Read, father of Dr. Zachariah Read, previously mentioned. Budd was one of the incorporators of the Bridgetown Library. His son, Benjamin Say Budd, studied medicine with his uncle, Dr. Benjamin Say of Philadelphia, and was a partner of his father at Mount Holly.<sup>8</sup>

In 1844 the "New Jersey Mirror" of August 22 carried a notice of the forthcoming public sale of Samuel C. Henszey's "Mineral Spring Farm situated on the road leading from Mount Holly to Rancocas, about 1 mile from the former and 3 from the latter place, and lying on the Rancocas Creek." The farm embraced forty acres, two tenant houses, a barn, and a "good Mineral Spring." The ground

was high and airy and the creek was celebrated for bathing. The place was suitable for a boardinghouse and there was daily transportation to Philadelphia.

### *Browns Mills in the Pines*

As early as 1820 there was a hotel at Browns Mills, its location at this time not being definite. Thomas Scattergood came in 1854 and opened a boardinghouse for invalids. It is not known if this was the 1820 establishment or not. Part of the 1820 hotel was used as servants' quarters, and some section of this was incorporated in the Pig'n Whistle Inn, built about 1900 when J. B. Riley became identified with the Browns Mills development concern. A correspondent of the "Philadelphia Daily News" who had been sojourning at Browns Mills during August, 1859, wrote glowingly of a ball given there by the elite of Burlington County. His account, which appeared in the



THE OLD HOTEL AT BROWNS MILLS, 1820

(Negative loaned through the courtesy of the late Nathaniel R. Ewan.)

"New Jersey Mirror and Burlington County Advertiser" of August 25, 1859, spoke of the handsome equipages bearing belles and beaux that arrived during the afternoon before the ball, and of the superiority of the female loveliness congregated there over that which attended Saratoga, Newport and Cape May. He wrote that the resort in the pines was then deserted in comparison with former summers, as people hastened to places more easy of access, but he believed that should the railroad to Pemberton ever be built, Browns Mills would again become popular. The railroad was not long in arriving, as the "New-Jersey Mirror" of August 23, 1860, commented upon the fact that the Mount Holly and Pemberton Railroad was about to commence in earnest as a procession of twelve stout draught horses attached to as many carts filled with spades, wheelbarrows and



other tools had passed through Mount Holly recently on their way to Pemberton.

An advertisement in "The Philadelphia Inquirer" of July 3, 1861, signed by Thomas Scattergood as proprietor, stated that "Brown's Mills Boarding House" originally kept by the Brown family was now being kept by him as he was one of the family. He mentioned the medicated spring water, the fishing, bathing, and said that "the utmost order and decorum" would be preserved.

As early as February 11, 1833, the "Delaware and Jobstown Rail or McAdamized Road Company" was incorporated by the legislature of New Jersey to begin at low-water mark on the Delaware River at the mouth of Craft's Creek and then over the lands of various owners to Columbus, Jobstown, Lewistown, through the Pines to the vicinity of New Lisbon, a distance of thirteen miles and thirty chains. In 1834 its name was changed to the "Delaware and Atlantic Rail Road Company" and it was authorized to extend the road from New Lisbon to some point on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean between Tuckerton and Barnegat. A notice in the "Burlington Gazette" (New Jersey) of June 15, 1838, advertised the Delaware and Atlantic passenger cars as leaving the Camden & Amboy steamboat wharf near Bordentown daily upon the arrival of the steamboat "Burlington," for a cheap and pleasant trip to Browns Mills, "Greenwood & Pine Cottage Boarding houses," arriving before sundown. The line ran through Columbus, Jobstown and Juliustown, and a good hack at Juliustown would take passengers where they wanted to go. When the Columbus, Kinkora and Springfield Railroad Company was incorporated in 1866, the road was to be laid on the old bed of the Delaware and Atlantic Railroad Company.

The Browns Mills Hotel formerly kept by Charles Davis was in 1861 leased by John C. H. Combs, who advertised in the June 24, 1861 "Philadelphia Inquirer" that the place would be ready on July 1 to receive visitors. Summer boarding cost \$6.00 weekly and the place was accessible to Mount Holly or Bordentown by railroad and from those points by stages.

In 1877, William Horner, proprietor of the Newell House, opened previously by Newell and Ridgway of Philadelphia, at Browns Mills, advertised summer boarding, mineral springs, cedar swamp water, bracing pine air, nearly one hundred acres of shade, boating, bathing and fishing, large airy rooms newly furnished, and enclosed grounds for picnics and private parties. Board per week was \$8.00, and by the day, \$1.50. Stages for Browns Mills met the trains at New Lisbon.<sup>9</sup> In the Seaside Directory of New Jersey for 1880, Browns Mills was advertised as the Great Health Resort with mineral springs, cedar swamp water, etc. The "acres of shade" had increased to over two hundred.

The "Camden Democrat" of April 24, 1880, said that Messrs. Newell and Ridgway had bought additional land adjoining their Browns Mills property for a park. There was a hill on the property on which an observatory had been built. The Newell House had been newly furnished throughout. Mention was also made of the new hotel which Newell and Ridgway were erecting on Long Beach opposite Barnegat.

During 1881 the Newell House was enlarged by the erection of an addition 100 feet by 38 feet, the new building being three and a half stories high. It had 34 bedrooms, lighted by gas, and there were water closets and bathrooms, supplied with hot and cold water, on every floor. The dining room was 82 feet by 36 feet and could seat three hundred persons. The new building was to be opened on July 1, according to the notice in the "Camden Democrat" of June 17,



OCTAGONAL SPRINGHOUSE

Octagonal springhouse enclosing the Sulphur Spring  
at Browns Mills, New Jersey.

(Negative through the courtesy of the late  
Nathaniel R. Ewan.)

1882. For the 1882 season "a string band," which played in 1881 at White Sulphur Springs, had been engaged. This was a great improvement over the lone fiddler of previous years. At this period the proprietor of the hotel was Norris H. Hannum.

By 1884 the mineral water had been analyzed by Dr. John Marshall of the University of Pennsylvania, who declared that samples taken from "cold spring" were the purest he had every analyzed and contained valuable medicinal properties much resembling the

water of the cold springs of Neuendorf, in Electoral Hesse.<sup>10</sup> A newspaper article of 1886 refers to the resort as a favorite spot for picnics within a radius of fifteen or twenty miles for several decades and of being immensely popular within the past few years since the genial host and his wife of the Newell House had been in command. Buildings and grounds had been enlarged and improved. The mineral springs of iron and sulphur which had always been there "continued to send forth a never-failing supply of clear, sparkling water." Rustic houses and benches were built over and around the springs that were only a few minutes' walk from the hotel. These springs were entirely out of sound and sight of the bustle around the hotel. "With the gurgling water and soft sighing of the breeze in the woods around" one could easily forget the mad rush of the surrounding world.<sup>11</sup>

The Forest Springs Company had been incorporated March 21, 1889. Their principal office was at Browns Mills, where their charter provided for a summer and winter pleasure resort, managing a sanitarium or health resort, running a stage line, carrying on a livery stable business, operating pleasure boats, growing, marketing and dealing in cranberries, fruits and vegetables, selling and dealing in mineral water and "medicinal spring water," building and renting cottages and operating amusements, and running farms, mills, factories with water power. The total amount of their capital stock was \$150,000, in 1,500 shares with a par value of \$100 each. They were to start business with \$3,000, and all the remaining stock was to be used for the purchase of property. Their charter was for a period of fifty years. They operated the Forest Springs Hotel, which continued successfully until February 9, 1895, when it was completely destroyed by fire with a loss of \$100,000 (insurance \$36,000). The hotel was vacant at the time. The late Nathaniel R. Ewan advised us that the hotel had opened in 1891. The hotel could accommodate over 200 guests and was handsomely carpeted and decorated throughout.

The stockholders were Alexander G. Cattell, of Merchantville, a United States Senator from New Jersey, 1868-1871; Edward N. Cohn, Camden, a prominent builder and promoter; and Edward Ambler Armstrong, a corporation lawyer with an office at 301 Market Street, Camden. In 1931 his residence was at Princeton, New Jersey. Each of these stockholders had ten shares.

After the close of the 1882 season, the boardinghouses at Browns Mills changed proprietorship. There were two cottages with enclosed grounds and a new, handsome house with gas and all modern improvements. The new proprietor, William H. Pennock, who also ran the Newell House, told all about this in the "Camden Daily Courier" of May 5, 1883, and added much more about the cedar





Early pavilion over the chalybeate spring at Browns Mills, New Jersey, 1894, showing Miss Ella Lowden Thomas, of Riverton, N. J., who later became the wife of Nathaniel R. Ewan.

(Photograph by the late Nathaniel R. Ewan.)



Later replacement for the early pavilion over the iron spring at Browns Mills, New Jersey, 1905. This was an all-year-round springhouse containing a small, glass-enclosed parlor with brick floor, fireplace and electric lights.

(Courtesy of the late Nathaniel R. Ewan.)

swamp water, several chalybeate and sulphur springs and other springs of pure wholesome water, in addition to the natural beauties of the Great Health Resort and its bathing, boating and fishing. Board was \$2.00 per day and \$7.00 to \$12.00 per week, which included the use of boats for guests. A Theodore Pennock, who may have been the proprietor of the 1820 hotel, was the father-in-law of Joseph White, the "cranberry king" whose daughter developed and perfected the blueberry. The extensive bog holdings of the Whites came into their possession through inheritance from Mrs. Pennock.

Francis B. Lee, New Jersey historian, wrote a piece, "Mid Solemn Oaks and Pines" for the "Camden County Courier" of July 28, 1888, which is a sort of panegyric of Browns Mills, written on July 24 while the author sat in the hotel tower listening to the rustling of the oak



Forest Springs Hotel at Browns Mills, New Jersey, which was destroyed by fire on February 9, 1895.

(Negative loaned by the late Nathaniel R. Ewan.)

leaves and the sighing of the pines. While in this mellow mood he reconstructed the visits of Joseph Bonaparte, ex-King of Spain, with Prince Murat, the Princess Zenaide and Charles Lucien arriving amid a cloud of dust in a coach and four, with liveried servants and outriders on horseback. They came from Bordentown and were on their way to Manahawken or Barnegat. They took dinner in the Jersey pines, Prince Murat being "a little rocky from his last escape near Mount Holly where he drank champagne punch in the woods." When dinner was over they drove away and were lost in the pines. Lee then awakes from his reminiscences and recounts how



the surrounding groves echo with the shouts of persons who come to seek new life and vigor among the pines. Proprietor Pennock, of the Newell House, is known to all Jerseymen, and many persons have eaten his dinners, sailed on the lake and danced in his big pavilion, all to their immense enjoyment. Browns Mills is a charming place in which to spend the summer.

In 1916 Browns Mills In-the-Pines became better known to hundreds of people through the activity of the "Philadelphia Press." In consideration for a subscription to this daily and Sunday newspaper for six months, at the usual subscription price which was paid to the newsdealer, the "Press" would give the subscriber a lot at Browns Mills for \$39.20. This amount covered the cost of drawing up the deed, all notaries' fees and incidental expenses. Payments were to be made in installments of \$4.90 monthly. After the first payment, one could start building. After all payments were made, one was given the deed. Browns Mills was only thirty-two miles from Philadelphia. According to the "Press" its greatest charm was its four-mile chain of lakes, the fishing and canoeing, and its eight miles of forested lake front. Its mineral springs of iron and sulphur were not mentioned in the "Press" pamphlets, but by 1916 mineral waters had lost much of their former popularity.

It has been difficult to obtain a clear, consecutive idea of the old hotels and boardinghouses of Browns Mills. Over the years their physical structures were changed and the advertising of the proprietors was not helpful in determining whether their places were new or old ones made over. The early notices failed to mention mineral water, and it was not until the time of the Newell House that the springs were advertised. On the basis of such information as was available, we have pieced together the following chronological list. There was an old hotel of 1820 of which we know almost nothing. In 1849, William Gaskill was running Browns Mills Boardinghouse. From 1850 to 1852, William R. Deacon was running it. In 1854 there was Scattergood's Boardinghouse. Before and during part of 1861 Charles Davis was the proprietor of Browns Mills Hotel, which later in 1861 was being operated by John C. H. Combs. The Newell House with William Horner as proprietor appears in 1877. In 1880 Mr. Hannum was the proprietor. In 1883 additions were built and W. H. Pennock was the proprietor. In 1886 Theodore Pennock was running it. In 1891 the Forest Springs Hotel was opened and in 1895 it was destroyed by fire. In 1900 J. B. Riley was a developer of Browns Mills, having previously been the proprietor of the St. Charles Hotel in Atlantic City. Riley built the glass enclosed springhouse.

Mrs. Charles J. Roberts, of Browns Mills, recalls that water from the sulphur spring was bottled, and among the users was Green's Hotel, a famous dining spot of Philadelphia.



## Colestown

Today one looks in vain on a modern map of New Jersey for the village of Colestown, founded in 1676 and named for an early settler, Samuel Coles, who located on a tract of land between three and four miles from Moorestown on the road to Haddonfield. Colestown has completely vanished leaving not a trace, although at one time it was a community of some importance and gave promise of becoming more so.<sup>12</sup> At a time when Yellow Springs, Bristol Springs and others in nearby Pennsylvania were successful by reason of their medicinal qualities, it was customary for persons having mineral water on their property to take advantage of such natural and popular resources. So in the Philadelphia "Aurora" of July 7, 1810, we find an announce-

### COLESTOWN MINERAL WATER, AND FOUNTAIN HOTEL.

THE subscriber begs leave to inform his friends and the public in general, that he has erected a commodious house at the COLESTOWN MINERAL SPRING, where excellent accommodations for a numerous company, either for ladies or gentlemen, may be always obtained.

The romantic and picturesque views of the country, the salubrious and agreeable situation of the house, the accommodations of the spring, which consists of baths, &c. tend in a particular manner to render this place truly delightful, not only for the invalid, but for the man of pleasure.

The distance to this Spring from Camden, is 8 miles: and the stages which run from the different ferries, always present opportunities of conveyance.

This water was analysed last summer, by Mr. JAMES CUTBUSH and Dr. BENEZER; an account of which has already appeared before the public. The result of the experiments make it appear, that it is a powerful chalybeate, equal, if not superior to any in the United States, and that the iron is held in solution by carbonic acid, or, as it is commonly called, fixed air. The numerous cures of cure performed with this water, combined with the healthy situation of the neighborhood, on patients laboring under dyspepsia, and general debility, arising from bilious habits, &c. are alone sufficient testimonials of its utility.

For further information, refer to Mr. SAMUEL SMITH, S. Third street, opposite Dock street, Mr. JAMES CUTBUSH, No. 25, S. Fourth street, and Dr. BENEZER, corner of Third and Pine streets.

GEORGE GITHENS.

Colestown, Burlington Co. N. J.

June 3

d61q

### COLESTOWN MINERAL SPRING

(From the "Aurora and General Advertiser," Philadelphia, Pa., of May 29, 1811.)

ment by Saml. Benezet, M.D., and James Cutbush, a chemist, of a mineral spring of "a salubrious and medicinal quality" lately discovered "on the farm of George Githens in Jersey," in the district of Colestown, Chester Township, Burlington County. After commenting upon the then growing popularity of mineral waters, the authors intimate that the substitution of such waters for the too general use of ardent spirits might be a laudable thing. They then supplied an "analysis" dated July 1, 1810, as follows:

#### Experiment

1. Alcohol of galls produced an intense black precipitate.
2. Muriate of barytes produced a turbidness.
3. Nitrate of silver occasioned a white precipitate.
4. Acetate of lead produced the same phenomena.
5. Oxalate of potash had no effect.
6. Lime water rendered it turbid.
7. Solution of soap produced no visible change.
8. Caustic ammonia had no effect.
9. Carbonate of ammonia and phosphate of soda, when added one succeeding the other, produced no precipitate.
10. By evaporating a portion of the water immediately from the spring, it gave a yellowish precipitate: during the ebullition, a deposition of the same substance took place.

In the first experiment the black color meant the presence of iron. The next experiment discovered the solvent of the iron, which was found to be sulphuric acid which appeared to be combined with an alkaline base. Nitrate of silver as well as acetate of lead revealed the presence of muriatic acid. "Oxalate of potash" having no effect proved the absence of lime. Lime water becoming turbid indicated carbonic acid. The soap solution producing no change demonstrated the absence of an earthy salt. Caustic ammonia in not resulting in a white precipitate indicated the absence of earthy matter. The last experiment proved that no magnesia was held in solution. The deposition of "ochrous" matter during the ebullition proved the solvent to be fixed air (carbon dioxide). The medicinal qualities of the water were described as powerful. In consequence of its saline matter, it was diuretic and the iron made it an excellent tonic. Cutbush and Benezet also advanced the opinion that the iron held in solution principally by carbon dioxide made the water useful in disorders of the stomach generally.

James Cutbush, one of the pioneer chemists of America, was a respected, active, intelligent manufacturing chemist of Philadelphia who held various positions of responsibility and who was an enthusiastic supporter of the advancement of chemical knowledge. He was the president of the Columbian Chemical Society, the professor of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry and Mineralogy in St. John's College, a public lecturer on chemistry, and he conducted his business as a chemist and apothecary at 25 S. Fourth Street, Philadelphia, in 1819.

In 1814 he was appointed Assistant Apothecary General in the U. S. Army. He was also Chief Medical Officer of the Military Academy and Post at West Point for seventeen months and then acting professor of chemistry and mineralogy in the Academy. He contributed to the scientific journals of his day and is best remembered for his book, *A System of Pyrotechny* published in 1825 through the efforts of his widow and his former students. He lived between 1788 and 1823 and was the son of Edward Cutbush, a stone cutter, who may have cut the analysis of the Colestown spring water on the marble slab used by Githens at the side of the spring. Edgar F. Smith, Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, wrote an appreciative account of Cutbush under the title, *James Cutbush, An American Chemist, 1788-1823*, that was published at Philadelphia in 1919. Cutbush also analyzed the waters of the Bristol Bath of Bristol, Pennsylvania, in 1811.

In its issue of July 16, 1810, the "Aurora" carried a statement, signed "B," which dwelt upon the efficacy of Bath, Saratoga and Ballston waters in the cure of certain diseases and of the proof of the virtue of mineral waters based on the experience of physicians who prescribed such waters, their virtues depending principally upon their iron content. Attention is then called to the great quantity of iron in the Colestown water and the wish is expressed that indisposed persons will visit the "salubrious and agreeable place" of Colestown "for the purpose of restoring their health and renovating their vigour."

In the "Aurora" of July 24, 1810, the subject of mineral waters was brought up again by A. C. who cautioned the users of mineral waters, natural or artificial, against the indiscriminate use of chalybeate waters as they might prove as injurious in some cases as they are beneficial in others. Their use in pulmonary complaints where there was the smallest tendency to inflammation increased the disease instead of relieving it. It was thought that the use of the chalybeate water "increased the action of the blood." Aside from this, A. C. was in favor of the use of mineral waters and was pleased that the spring at Colestown had been discovered. However, he did not agree with Benezet and Cutbush who in their original article had indicated that the Colestown water, containing iron dissolved by carbonic acid, if mixed with a quantity of soda would result in iron oxide being precipitated and the carbonic acid would combine with the soda to form sodium carbonate.

Colestown water was again the subject of a long article in the "Aurora" of July 28, 1810. This time a correspondent, one "W," came to the defense of Cutbush's chemistry and presumed that A. C. must have been unacquainted with the laws of chemical affinity when he wrote his piece. It is hoped that George Githens profited by all this publicity over his spring water. He apparently did, because on



August 6, 1810, Thomas Denny advertised in the "Aurora" of Philadelphia that the Colestown Stage in consequence of the frequent demands at the ferry for a conveyance to the "Colestown Mineral Waters" would undertake to make the trip three times a week from Mr. Thorn's Ferry through Haddonfield to the springs. The one-way fare was 25 cents to Haddonfield and 50 cents to the springs. James Springer and John Negus, according to the Philadelphia "Aurora" of June 17, 1812, announced that the "Ferry Steam Boat Camden" in the future would start from John Negus' ferry, the lower side of Market Street, Philadelphia, and cross over to James Springer's on the Jersey shore for the accommodation of persons who wanted to visit Jersey for rural walks and entertainment, also "being within a short distance of several pleasant villages, say Woodbury, Haddonfield, Moorestown and the much resorted Coles-town mineral springs."

In 1811 and 1812 George Githens announced, in a paid advertisement directed to the citizens of Philadelphia, that his celebrated watering place was "now open" for the reception of company. He had a large commodious house where one could stay by the day, week or month. His mineral water was considered equal to any kind in the United States and its chalybeate properties made it extremely serviceable to those "laboring under general debility and dyspepsia." Its "deobstruent qualities tended to remove bilious and other affections" to which people were subject during the summer. For more particulars one was directed to "Samuel Smith, on Third Street opposite Dock Street, or James Cutbush, No. 25 South Fourth Street, both in Philadelphia. Cutbush in 1818 lived at 207 South Fourth Street. Although the stages that ran from the Camden ferries to Haddonfield did not make Colestown Springs a part of their route, they would stop there, if required, every day in the week.<sup>13</sup>

George Githens, after the spring water had been analyzed by James Cutbush, had the record of the analysis cut in letters on a marble slab and this was installed beside the spring for everyone to read. This marble slab was removed by Joseph C. Haines, the owner of the property in 1886, and used as a door step at his house near Lumberton, New Jersey. George Githens' commodious house for boarders was known as the Fountain Hotel. This acquired some reputation among invalids of its day. In 1886 the spring was located on the farm of Joseph C. Haines but had become, according to George R. Prowell, so filled up as to be hard to find.

George Githens did not live long after opening his mineral spring to the public. He died in 1814 and his estate, according to his will, was to go to his wife and later to his eleven children. According to Prowell's "History of Camden County," Allinson Githens was supposed to have been the owner of the spring and builder of the hotel, but this is incorrect. Allinson was George Githens' son. On June 3,

1814, George French and Joseph Matlack, executors of George Githens' estate, advertised it for sale. At that time it consisted of the Fountain Hotel; the mineral spring, "so much esteemed by the citizens of Philadelphia and New Jersey," with any quantity of land desired by the purchaser, from one to ten acres; the "Mansion House," where Githens and his family lived, with its outbuildings, a tanyard, and its accompanying buildings; and any quantity of land from four to twenty acres; and the remainder of the land, not sold with the buildings. Interested parties were to get in touch with Allinson Githens on the premises or the executors living in Moorestown.<sup>14</sup> According to Prowell, "Allenson Giffins," meaning Allinson Githens, was supposed to have kept a tanyard near the hotel. However, it belonged to his father, George, and although a tanyard with its odors and a hotel do not appear to be compatible, perhaps the smelly operations were confined to a season when the hotel was not full of guests.

In 1929 DeCou wrote that the Fountain House was moved about 1830 and was then "part of the first house on the northern side of Church Road after crossing the creek" going toward Evesboro.<sup>15</sup> And so Colestown on "Crooked Lane" leading from the Haddonfield to the Fellowship Road, with its mineral spring, its Fountain Hotel, its undulating landscape, its blacksmith shop, its sawmill, its two stores and several houses and its visitors, the sick and the well, including one old lady who said the spring water was "bad enough to be good," faded away. One monument of the past remained when James C. Purdy wrote his account in 1886. This was St. Mary's Protestant Episcopal Church, but this later burned and now only a large graveyard remains.

### *Rancocas*

Perhaps the Rancocas Springs Boarding House should not have a place in this account, as the springs whose whereabouts are not recorded do not appear to have been mineral ones. However, a New Jersey summer resort "pleasantly situated on a high bank on the Rancocas Creek and surrounded with large forest trees and other shade" which enjoyed a certain degree of popularity deserves more than complete neglect. According to its advertisement in 1852 in the classified column of "The Public Ledger" of Philadelphia, access to this resort was by the steamboat "Barclay" at the foot of Market Street, Philadelphia, at two o'clock.<sup>16</sup> A later advertisement in the same newspaper located it as sixteen miles from Philadelphia and said, "The Rancocas Springs Boarding House is not [now] open for the reception of Boarders." The proprietor, Samuel N. Borton, referred prospective patrons to Benj. I. Andrews, 86½ Market Street, Philadelphia, "up-stairs" for terms, and another way of reach-

ing the resort was by the Moorestown stage from Camden at four o'clock in the afternoon.<sup>17</sup>

During the following year, 1853, the proprietor, Samuel N. Borton, opened his resort on June 15 instead of June 5 as in 1852, and mentioned its accessibility from the foot of Market Street at "9:00 A. M. and 2½ o'clock, P. M.," by the steamboats "Barclay" and "Rancocas." Terms could be obtained by applying to Mr. Andrews at 18 South Fourth Street, second story, and from Peter A. Jordan at the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Chestnut Street above Fifth Street, or from the proprietor at the springs. The round trip fare on the steamboat was 30 cents.<sup>18</sup> By June 21, the advertising was changed to show that passengers on the 9:00 A.M. boat could return to the city about 3:30 P.M., and the second boat, leaving Philadelphia at 12:30 P.M. was ignored. Perhaps city transients were not too welcome to stay overnight.<sup>19</sup> Later in the summer the steamer "Wave" was substituted for the "Rancocas," and boats left Market Street at 6:00 A.M., 12:30 P.M., and 5:00 P.M., returning at 7:00 A.M., 1:30 P.M., and 6:00 P.M.<sup>20</sup>

In the advertising no mention was made of the exact location of the springs or boardinghouse, or of the nearest village. Apparently the only desirable approach was by the water route. One-day excursionists were welcomed, but boarders seemingly went through a sort of screening process at Philadelphia or at the resort. Terms were not advertised, so that no one could barge in unannounced. Perhaps this retreat was trying to be somewhat exclusive, or perhaps it was too well known to need to be definitely located in the advertising and perhaps the agents were for the purpose of keeping the number of boarders down to the capacity of existing facilities.

Another advertisement, printed along with those of the big mineral spring notices, was that of the Cold Springs Boarding House, pleasantly situated on the Rancocas Creek, twenty miles from Philadelphia. The owner or manager, Cyrus Moore of Long Bridge, New Jersey, in 1848 offered private boarding on reasonable terms, affording gentlemen an opportunity to go to the city and return the same day by the steamer "Barclay," which left Arch Street wharf at 2:00 P.M. daily. Long Bridge is now Hainesport, on the Rancocas Creek. The Rancocas spring resorts flourished during the popular period of mineral springs and water cures, and it is believed that if the Rancocas springs had had any medicinal value by reason of their mineral content, the proprietors would have said so.

#### FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER VIII

1. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, October 24, 1771.
2. *New Jersey Mirror and Burlington County Advertiser* (Mount Holly, N. J.), May 10, 1838.
3. *Annals of Mount Holly*, by Zachariah Read, M.D., 1859, with an introduction and notes by Nelson B. Gaskill, 1934. Typed manuscript in files of Burlington County Historical Society, Burlington, N. J.



4. Eugene S. Ferguson, "Thomas Truxtun in New Jersey," *Proc. N. J. Hist. Soc.*, April, 1959, pp. 91-102.
5. *New Jersey Mirror and Burlington County Advertiser* (Mount Holly, N. J.), April 20, 1825.
6. *Ibid.*, November 14, 1850.
7. *Trenton Federalist*, July 11, 1810.
8. E. M. Woodward, *History of Burlington and Mercer Counties, New Jersey* (Philadelphia, 1883), p. 76.
9. *The West Jersey Press* (Camden, N. J.), June 13, 1877.
10. *Camden Daily Courier*, May 14, 1884.
11. *New Jersey Mirror* (Mount Holly), June 9, 1886.
12. James C. Purdy, *Moorestown, Old and New* (1886).
13. *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser* (Philadelphia), June 13, 14, 15, 1812; *Aurora* (Philadelphia), May 29, 1811.
14. *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser* (Philadelphia), June 3, 1814.
15. George DeCou, *Moorestown and Her Neighbors* (1929).
16. *The Public Ledger* (Philadelphia), June 1, 1852.
17. *Ibid.*, July 9, 1852.
18. *Public Ledger and Transcript*, June 7, 1853.
19. *Ibid.*, June 21, 1853.
20. *Ibid.*, July 11, 1853.

## CHAPTER IX

### The Mineral Springs of Camden, Cape May and Gloucester Counties

#### Camden County

"The Chalybeate Waters near Gloucester, having acquired great esteem, and having been much frequented, many persons, who gave them a regular trial, have found very singular and salutary effects from them; it is expected, as the excellent virtues of these springs become more known, many will be desirous to be convenient where they can have frequent and easy access to them, every morning and evening, which will be necessary, as the waters drank at the spring are found to be much more efficacious. And as many were prevented from attending them regularly last season, from the difficulty of getting good and convenient lodgings, the subscriber takes this method to inform the ladies and gentlemen that he has taken a large convenient house in Gloucester, very pleasantly situate, with six good lodging rooms on the first floor, and will entertain those who are pleased to favor him, on very low and reasonable terms." So advertised Hugh Jones on May 7, 1767, in a Philadelphia newspaper.<sup>1</sup>

This chalybeate spring on the Harrison farm near the point where the Collings Road entered Gloucester (1936) was a well-known place in Old Gloucester County before the Revolutionary War. The Rev. Nathaniel Evans, of Haddonfield, in his poem, "The Morning Invitation to Two Young Ladies at the Gloucester Spring," published in 1772, praised the spring water and the surrounding countryside.<sup>2</sup> On June 9, 1772, Elizabeth Drinker and her husband, Henry, of Philadelphia top society, visited Gloucester Point on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River and drank Gloucester Spring water. This is recorded in her diary, "1772, June 9. Third day. H. D. and E. D. took a ride to Gloucester Point. Drank of ye mineral water, which is brought over [to Philadelphia] and sold at 4d. per bottle. Numbers of people resort there."<sup>3</sup> Early in the 1800s when people could visit the inns on the outskirts of the city and take trips to the seashore, the popularity of Gloucester Spring declined.

Another Old Gloucester County watering place, now in Camden County, was "three and a quarter" miles from Cooper's Ferry (Camden), on the road leading to Chew's Landing. This was known in 1814 as Sloan's Mineral Springs. James Sloan had erected a "spacious and commodious building for the accommodation of families or indi-

## SLOAN'S MINERAL SPRINGS,

*Three and a quarter miles from Cooper's Ferry,  
in Gloucester county, on the road leading to  
Chew's Landing.*

**T**HE Subscriber respectfully informs the Citizens of Philadelphia and the public in general, that he has erected a spacious and commodious building for the accommodation of families or individuals in the vicinity of his Mineral Springs, which he expects will be ready to receive company on the fourth of July next.

The house is situated on a rising eminence, surrounded by a country which is healthful, fertile, and highly pleasing to the eye. From the mineral contents of the water, which are iron, sulphurated hydrogen, and some saline matter, it has been found useful in dyspeptic complaints and in general debility, when taken during the day as a beverage, and as it is an excellent chalybeate, its tonic qualities are strikingly observable. The salubrity of the air, the agreeableness of the neighbourhood, and the variety which the place affords, added to the virtues of the Springs, are considerations which induce the Proprietor to hope, that he shall receive a proper share of public patronage.— Nothing on his part shall be wanting to render the retreat an agreeable one to the respectable part of community—and, from its proximity to Philadelphia, persons residing there may enjoy its advantages in the summer months without materially interfering with their business, as stages will be established to run from Camden to the Springs three times a day.

**James Sloan.**

June 24

d2w

SLOAN'S MINERAL SPRINGS

(From "Poulson's American Daily Advertiser," Philadelphia, Pa.,  
of June 24, 1814.)



viduals in the vicinity of his Mineral Springs," which he expected to open on July 4. The house was on a hill surrounded by a country pleasing to behold and healthful and fertile as well. His spring waters, which contained iron, sulphuretted hydrogen and saline matter, had been found useful in dyspeptic complaints and general debility. Sloan expected patronage from Philadelphia, as his place afforded opportunities for those compelled to stay in the city during the summer months. There appears to be nothing on record indicating that his expectations were realized, even though stages were to be established to run from Camden to the springs thrice daily.<sup>4</sup>

In the same area as the Sloan Mineral Springs, S. C. Champion, in an advertisement for the sale of bricks and tile in a July, 1834, notice in the "Camden Mail and General Advertiser," gives his address as the Mineral Spring Farm. Twenty-one years later, in the February 14, 1855, issue of "The West Jerseyman" (Camden) John Boggs advertised the sale of his personal property on February 22 at his residence in "Newton township, N. J., on the Mineral Spring Farm, 3½ miles from Camden, on the Mount Ephram [sic] Road." What may have been this same farm was advertised for sale by Edward Smith of Camden on September 3, 1845, in "The West Jersey Mail" as containing 100 acres and being "on the road to Mount Ephraim 2½ miles from Camden, and 1¼ miles from Gloucester." It contained "a very fine chalybeate spring," a large quantity of marl, and clay suitable for making bricks.

In the early 1800s the area now known as Laurel Springs was occupied by two Stafford farms and one Tomlinson farm. When Ephraim Tomlinson established his grist- and sawmills on Timber Creek and called his place Laurel Mills, because of the surrounding dense growth of laurel, the place began to have a name. About the same time, during the 1870s, Walt Whitman found his way to that neighborhood and liking the country and its several fresh and mineral water springs, boarded with George Stafford and his wife Susan. In 1895 John J. Albertson laid out the town known as Laurel Springs. Mrs. Myriel L. Jones of Stratford, New Jersey, to whom we are indebted for this account, writes that one of the fountains was a lithia spring, of which several analyses were made. Although the water was never bottled, the spring was well enough known to persons in the neighborhood and to Philadelphians who came to the place to fill their jugs and bottles. Water from the lithia spring was available at the Lakeview boardinghouse. The mother of Mrs. Jones, together with her two cousins, recall a William Buchter, a Philadelphia wholesale liquor dealer who spent his summers with his family at Lakeview, and also a Philadelphia builder, August Mueller, who with his family summered at Lakeview. Both drank the lithia water regularly, Buchter for a kidney ailment and Mueller for a tonic.<sup>5</sup>

Although there were many small springs in the neighborhood of Laurel Springs, three were especially noteworthy. These were a sulphur spring close to the dam, arched over with brown fieldstone; the Crystal Spring with its three-foot cascade, also along Laurel Lake (the lake formed by the damming of Timber Creek for Laurel Mill); and a lithia spring near the foot of Tomlinson Avenue. Mrs. Ray A. Lynch, widow of Frederick L. Lynch, Jr., Laurel Springs' veteran newspaper correspondent and editor, who was born in nearby Magnolia and knows the spring area from childhood, advised us that Crystal Spring was the one to which Walt Whitman resorted. It was destroyed by the Town Fathers and filled in by WPA workers to be used as a dump. The George Stafford home nearby is now occupied by Mrs. May Riley, who entertained the Walt Whitman Foundation yearly with a garden party on Whitman's birthday when the Foundation scheduled its regular visits there. And so Crystal Spring, according to Mrs. Jones, with its beautiful surroundings and the favorite spot at which Whitman sun-bathed in a large "grape-vine swing," and buried himself in the mud, finally became a community dumping ground and disappeared under tons of trash, although at present Mrs. Jones tells us that the spring has again found its way to the surface and still bubbles at the base of a trash-strewn hill. From 1873 to 1878 Whitman spent much time by Timber Creek, staying with the Staffords. There was a spring and a marl pit by the creek on the Stafford place. When Whitman arrived there in the spring of 1876 he was much depressed on account of his paralytic stroke, and it took several weeks before he was able to go to the creek some four hundred yards away. By the end of the summer he was able to make the round trip unaided. He bathed in the tree-shaded creek, took sun baths on the banks, and mud baths in the marl pit.

Laurel Springs had two public houses, the Lakeview Boardinghouse and the Laurel Inn. The "West Jersey Press" (Camden, N. J.) of August 16, 1893, refers to the town as a "Camden County Summer Resort" with a beautiful grove, a lake twenty acres in area, numerous springs, iron, sulphur, etc., the Inn with twenty sleeping rooms, and fishing, boating, etc., and gave a list of recent arrivals at the Inn. It is of interest to note that Tatem Parsons was then running the pretty Laurel Springs Inn. For more than fifty years he was employed by the Pennsylvania Railroad, and for three or four years of that period he ran the noted John Bull from Bordentown to Camden, one of two John Bulls brought to this country in 1831, the other one going to Newcastle. An account of Parsons, together with his portrait, was published in the "Camden County Weekly Courier" of May 20, 1893.

Because of the unsafe condition of the dam, forming historic Laurel Lake commemorated in Whitman's writings, the State of New Jersey ordered plans to be made for either its repair or destruction by Feb-

ruary 15, 1961. The Laurel Springs Council presented the matter to the citizens and other interested civic groups and it was discussed from all viewpoints. Although the officials of Laurel Springs, Stratford, and Lindenwold, were in favor of a new dam about seven hundred feet below the existing dam, this plan had to be abandoned in favor of rebuilding the existing dam. This was announced in the "Courier-Post" (Camden, N. J.) of June 26, 1961.

A farm near Chew's Landing containing a bed of rich iron ore and a mineral spring was advertised to be sold at auction on November 11, 1824, on the premises. The property containing 188 acres of land, a house, barn, sheds, peach orchard, livestock, etc., was situated on the Clementon or Great Egg Harbor Road about eight and a half miles from Philadelphia and one and a half from Chew's Landing. The mineral spring was pronounced by a "professional gentleman" to possess valuable qualities, and the upper part of the farm where the spring was located might "be made a good Tavern and Fashionable Resort in the Summer Season," so the notice stated. For more particulars one was advised to apply to G. W. Waite, of Philadelphia, or to G. & R. Waite, New York, N. Y. G. & R. Waite was an old established lottery office at 51 Maiden Lane, New York, in 1816. They sold lottery tickets wholesale and retail. The terms of the sale were 5 per cent to be paid the day after the sale, 20 per cent on the delivery of the deeds, 25 per cent in three months, 25 per cent in six months, and the residue in nine months. Apparently this Old Gloucester County spring never developed into a resort, in spite of its location where the roads were good and the neighborhood thickly settled.<sup>6</sup>

An Indian spring on the farm of a Mr. Powell, the ruins of old Fort Nassau, and Harrison Hall, with two early mineral springs, were the objects at Gloucester Point, New Jersey, worthy of attention, according to an 1844 writer named "R."<sup>7</sup> Of more interest is the artesian well bored in the summer of 1852 for the purpose of supplying cool drinking water to the shipyard workers on Petty's Island in the Delaware opposite the Richmond section of Philadelphia and under the jurisdiction of Pennsauken Township, Camden County. When water was struck it turned out to be chalybeate with a diuretic effect. John Hewson, Jr., an assistant of Professor Booth, analyzed the water with the following results in grains per gallon: bicarbonate of iron, 16.305; bicarbonate of lime, 4.360; bicarbonate of magnesia, 1.839; bicarbonate of soda, 1.611; silica, 3.720; organic matter, 3.100; and carbonic acid, 17.37 cubic inches.<sup>8</sup>

Miss Cleora Tefteau, of Haddonfield, New Jersey, called our attention to a listing for the "Indian springs" in Gloucester City, which appeared in *The Camden & Gloucester Directory for 1850*—as "Combs & Robinson, Indian springs, Jersey avenue." Albert J. Corcoran, Gloucester historian, recalls the story that Combs &



Robinson shipped this water, because of mineral content, to the Jefferson Hospital, Philadelphia. Years later, he said, the Indian Spring Hotel, three-story brick, was built over the spring on the southwest corner of Eighth Street and Jersey Avenue. A concrete chamber enclosed the spring in the cellar. The hotel was razed about 1950, and the spring filled in with rubble from the demolition.

The water from an artesian well at Winslow, Camden County, was reported in the Transactions of the American Medical Association for 1880 as chemically indifferent, not having a sufficient amount of any chemical substance to impart a distinctive character, but which possessed peculiarities which might give it some medicinal value.<sup>9</sup>

### *Kalium Spring*

In 1872 when William Jones bought the old Stokes Farm at Collingswood in Camden County, he was badly troubled with kidney

# A Magic Fountain

Indeed is that which through its waters cures  
Bright's and other Diseases of the Kidneys,  
Dyspepsia, Rheumatism, Dropsy, etc.,  
and this is what the celebrated

## KALIUM SPRING WATER

(Registered)

Will do. Do not take our word for it, but send for  
pamphlet containing the voluntary  
testimonials of those who  
have tried it.

Remember, all you have to do is to drink  
FREELY of a pure, delightful water,  
without taste or smell.

IT IS CHEAP and ABSOLUTELY EFFECTIVE.  
Orders by mail promptly attended to.  
3 Miles on the Camden and Atlantic Railroad.  
Address WILLIAM JONES,  
(at the Spring), Collingswood, N. J.  
N. B.—Recollect, we have no agent; wagon in  
town every day.

ADVERTISEMENT OF KALIUM SPRING WATER  
(From the "Camden Daily Courier" of July 29, 1886.)

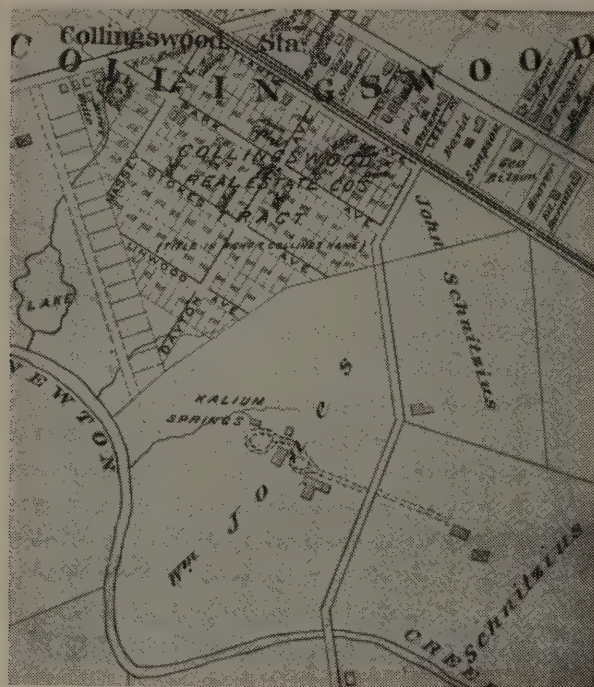
disease. Noticing a spring at the foot of a lawn behind his house, he had it cleaned out and began drinking the water because it was pure and cold. In a short time he noticed that his kidney trouble was getting less, but he never guessed the cause of the improvement. With the arrival of cold weather his visits to the spring ceased, with the result that the kidney trouble returned. He then started to drink the

spring water again and soon realized that it was benefiting him. His son and an aunt who had the same trouble were also improved by drinking the water, and the aunt realizing that it was not ordinary water urged him to have it analyzed, which he did. According to an analysis by O. M. Jenks, chemist of E. C. Knight & Co., of Philadelphia, a gallon of 231 cubic inches of the water contained the following in grains per gallon: iron and alumina, 0.2196; silica, 0.3499; organic matter, 0.1440; phosphoric acid, trace; chloride of lithium, trace; bicarbonate of sodium, 0.3030; sulphate of magnesia, 0.8249; chloride of sodium, 1.2969; chloride of potassium, 1.0455; bicarbonate of calcium, 0.9281; and sulphate of potassium, 0.5857.<sup>10</sup>

As a result of this analysis, Jones was soon in business as proprietor of Kalium Spring Water, at Collingswood, New Jersey, three miles from Camden on the Camden & Atlantic Railroad. An early notice of this appeared in the November 20, 1885, issue of the "Camden Daily Courier" in news from Collingswood in which building and business were "booming" and in which it was noted that the mineral springs of William Jones were "achieving great success" for their medicinal qualities. In addition, Dr. Harry Shivers of Haddonfield was recommending the water to his numerous patients. William Jones soon started to advertise his water on a large scale. For example, the "Camden Daily Courier" of July 3, 1886, carried a large spread about "Kalium Spring Water, nature's own remedy for the cure of dyspepsia and all kidney troubles" including the analysis of the water together with fifteen testimonial letters from citizens of Camden, Philadelphia, Haddonfield and Collingswood who had been cured of kidney stone, dyspepsia, liver complaint, Bright's disease, kidney trouble, and wind, dyspepsia and liver complaints combined. Jones recommended one glass before breakfast, after each meal, and before retiring, and as often as thirst required during the day. He had the name Kalium Spring Water registered, kalium being another name for potassium. He had no agents. His wagon was in town every day. From this time on, Kalium Spring Water continued to be sold through the years up to at least 1906, sometimes as Indian Kalium Spring water, according to the annual reports on mineral waters issued by the U. S. Geological Survey. According to the report for 1896, the Kalium Springs and the Pine Grove Mineral Spring of Woodbury, New Jersey, reported sales of 104,000 gallons valued at \$75,800. As late as 1924 it was listed by Fitch.

From July to November, 1886, Jones advertised his spring water extensively in the "Camden Daily Courier," putting on a campaign rarely equaled by most business men of his period. The wording of the advertisements was changed frequently. The name Kalium Spring Water was always in large type, as was frequently William Jones' name. In very large type were the catch phrases such as A Magic Fountain, For the Positive Cure, Do Not Forget, Carry the News,

Steadily, Cheap as Dirt, Take Heed and Beware of Frauds. The medicinal value of the water was stressed, also the location of the springs. Although during Jones' time mineral spring resorts were no longer popular, the opposite was true for mineral water itself, which was being sold and consumed in increasing volume. His advertising must have been successful, as in 1890 a statement in "The Post" (Camden) announced that Kalium Spring Water then had a clear field, as nearly all competitors had discontinued the sale of their water, claimed as equal to Kalium. Kalium water was being sold in increasing amounts and orders were being received even from the New England states.<sup>11</sup>



LOCATION OF KALIUM SPRINGS

(From William Baist's "Map of Camden and Vicinity," 1887.)

Next we have a mixture of Kalium water and real estate. On Tuesday, June 8, and Thursday, June 10, of 1897, readers of Camden newspapers were confronted by half-page announcements in large type of the Kalium Spring Park and Improvement Company. This Company, organized under New Jersey laws, with a capital stock of \$150,000, divided into 15,000 shares with a par value of ten dollars each, was set up to place before the public, especially those suffering from diseased bladders, kidneys and livers, the famous Kalium water and to provide amusements and entertainment for visitors to their grounds, and to sell lots on easy terms so that they could build homes in a healthy place. The park and improvements were located in Collingswood at the terminus of the Camden & Suburban Trolley Road,



about five minutes' walk from the Camden & Atlantic Railroad station at Collingswood, on the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad to Atlantic City. The Park was on the banks of beautiful Newton Lake (5,000 x 300 feet) at a point where the lake was 300 feet wide, a place of natural beauty, cool and balmy during the torrid days of summer, so the prospectus said.

The Company owned about forty-six acres which bordered on the lake. Eight acres were to be laid out as a park where "innocent and enjoyable amusements" were to be provided for patrons of the spring. Within the park was an old mansion built in 1762 from bricks "brought over from England," and also within the park was the famous Kalium Medicinal Spring. Thirty of the acres were to be divided into building lots 50 x 100 and sold on easy terms. Avenues were to be fifty feet wide and there were restrictions as to buildings. Fifty handsome boats for hire were to be placed upon the lake, which abounded with various kinds of fishes. During the summer there were to be boat carnivals on the lake and during the winter skating carnivals. Kalium Inn, of colonial architecture, was to be built around the old mansion and was to have about sixty rooms, including parlors, reading, dining and bedrooms, all heated by steam and lit by electricity. It was expected that a large revenue would result from the hotel, restaurant, lake boats, the sale of lots and cottages, and the Kalium water, and pay an "immense" dividend to the stockholders, especially as the trolley lines of Camden carried "about 10,000 persons daily during the summer time without any attractions to draw them."

One could buy a limited amount of the stock for one dollar down and one dollar per week until paid for, at which time the stock would be delivered by the Guarantee Trust and Safe Deposit Company, 316, 318, 320 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia. To the subscribers of the first thousand shares of the capital stock were to go ten dollars' worth of Kalium Spring Water free, the subscriptions under this offer being limited to five shares each. For prices, sizes of lots, and terms, one could apply to the Company office, 312 Market Street, Camden. The advertising included the chemical analysis of the water and endorsements of it by two physicians, Dr. C. H. Shivers, of Haddonfield, New Jersey, and William S. Stewart, of 1801 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.<sup>12</sup> Many sub-divided lots were sold up to 1907 and private residences were built, but the big development plan with its sixty-room colonial mansion never materialized.

Kalium Springs gave rise to at least five corporations bearing its name. The Kalium Spring Water Company was organized September 30, 1894, with William Jones as a large stockholder. The Kalium Spring Park Company, incorporated March 18, 1897, was followed by the Kalium Spring Park and Improvement Company on June 3, 1897, by the Kalium Park Association on August 16, 1897, and by the Kalium Springs Land and Improvement Company on July 9,

1901, which on November 18, 1901, took title to 36 and 443/1000 acres from Wm. Jones. Apparently the previously named corporations failed to take title to the Jones property.

William Jones was born in England and married Mary Hannah Chester of "Blackwoodtown," New Jersey. He died in Collingswood on March 19, 1910.

The old Jones homestead at the Kalium spring is now (1961) divided into a two-family dwelling. Edward C. Yerpe and his wife own the end containing the big living room.

Several other mineral springs are known to have existed in the borough of Collingswood during the late 1800s, but they were not as important as the Kalium Springs, and would be unknown at present except for the old newspapers filed at the Camden County Historical Society in Camden. In "The Post" (Camden, N. J.) of June 30, 1886, David W. White is credited with discovering a valuable mineral spring upon his property adjoining his residence in Collingswood. White was a florist, according to the "Camden City Directory of 1886-87," having a shop at the point of Arch and Federal streets in Camden for many years. Apparently he registered a name for his spring water, as in a list of patents mentioned in the "Camden Daily Telegram" of March 2, 1889, there appeared, "D. W. White, Collingswood, spring water." White's spring was discovered in June, 1886, and by October of that year fifty gallons weekly were marketed. By October, 1887, White had built a springhouse over it. In 1889 he registered the name "Collingswood" for his mineral water. He was in his 70th year when he discovered the spring, and he died August 1, 1891.

A medicinal spring "heavily charged with lithia" was discovered on the brickyard property of Irwin & McGill, Collingswood, so the "West Jersey Press" reported in its issue of May 9, 1888.

The "Camden Democrat" of April 7, 1888, contained the following brief news item, "Mr. Blanchette has discovered a medicinal spring on his farm." James R. Duff, the dean of Collingswood historians, has a clear recollection of this farm, on what is now Lake View Drive opposite Stokes Avenue, Collingswood, and of Perry Blanchette who was in the restaurant business in Philadelphia around Eighth and Vine or Race streets. Blanchette lived in a three-story house with a mansard roof in Collingswood around 1888.

Another brief news item in the "Camden Democrat" of April 23, 1892, was, "Harry Willets has struck a medical spring on his lot on the Bettewood tract." This tract in Haddon Township is in the Collingswood area.

Then there was the mineral spring at "Blackwoodtown" near Timber Creek, not far from the Good Intent Mills on the opposite side of the creek. A letter in the "West Jersey Press" (Camden, N. J.) of November 3, 1869, suggested that a fine hotel near the mineral spring

grove would make the place a paying summer resort. The waters of the spring, known also as the Newkirk Spring, were strongly impregnated with iron, sulphur and lithium, and there was no reason why the waters should not become as famous as those of Gettysburg or Saratoga. The Mineral Spring Grove, according to a news item in the same newspaper of July 8, 1874, was referred to as one of the finest in the state with its "real, very fine, never-failing medicinal spring." In fact, on July 4 a party from Woodbury had spent the day there. The inset map of the village of "Blackwoodtown" on the 1877 Map of Camden County by G. H. Walker shows the location of this spring.

Through the kindness of John D. F. Morgan of Haddonfield, executive director of The Camden County Historical Society, we quote the following from the "West Jersey Press" of January 12, 1870. The article, devoted chiefly to the old woolen mills of "Blackwoodtown," built in 1829 by Garrett Newkirk, goes on to say, "An iron mineral spring is near these mills, the water of which shows a heavy coating if left to stand. The spring was covered with a stone [marble slab] bearing the date 1831 by an early proprietor, Mr. Newkirk, who is said to have been a person of considerable taste. A building now stands which was then the resort of Philadelphians, on account of its pleasant surroundings. The site is still a good one."

During his boyhood days, Mr. Morgan remembers a pavilion over the spring and at different times either a cup or a dipper kept at the spring. Newkirk's name was not on the marble slab, just the date. To approach the spring from the "Blackwoodtown" side required a tedious circuit of privately owned lands and finally a steep drop down a forty-foot hillside. For easier access, a footpath between the Blackwoodtown Lake dam and the old grist mill led along a meadow to a foot bridge which spanned the Main Branch of the Big Timber Creek about seventy-five yards below the floodgates. This bridge, Mr. Morgan said, was without railings and was only about twenty-eight inches wide and about twenty feet long, built on two huge transverse timbers about twelve inches square. This bridge, about five feet above the water, led directly to the foot of the hill where the spring was located. The early history of this spring belongs to Gloucester County until 1844 when the site became a part of Camden County.

The Diamond Spring Company of Ashland and Camden, New Jersey, was incorporated in New Jersey for fifty years on September 6, 1894, with a capital stock of \$25,000, par \$10.00, to commence with \$2,000 divided into 200 shares with a par value of \$10.00 each. Each of five Philadelphians held 100 shares. The "West Jersey Press" of October 17, 1894, reported large shipments of water from the Diamond Spring located near Ashland to Philadelphia and other places by the company known as the Diamond Springs Medicinal Water Association. An analysis of the water showed that it possessed "excellent



medical properties." In 1895 the name was changed to the Diamond Spring Water Company, and in 1903 its charter was forfeited for non-payment of state taxes.

A mineral spring was recorded from Clementon by the "Camden Democrat" of July 10, 1880, which stated, "Messrs. Snyder & Gibbs have on their premises a mineral spring containing iron, sulphur, etc., which has very valuable medicinal qualities. Invalids have been known to improve very fast while drinking of the waters." Snyder & Gibbs operated a gristmill close to the North Branch of Timber Creek, and the mineral spring was about twenty-five feet from the rear of the mill. Mr. and Mrs. Edgar B. Gibbs own the Clementon Lake Park (a summer amusement park) and Mr. Gibbs remembers the spring, but does not recall any pavilion over it or any attempt to bottle or sell the water. His father, Theodore Gibbs, who bought the mill property in 1872 freely allowed the townspeople to carry away the spring water in bottles, jars, crocks and other containers after word had spread around that it had medicinal properties. There is no trace of the spring at present. In fact it had disappeared long before the mill property was sold in 1921 to Joseph Powell. It was torn down about 1939.

### Cape May County

In his *Geology of the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey*, published in 1857, George H. Cook stated that several artesian wells had been bored at and near Cape Island. One was at the United States Hotel and another at the Mount Vernon Hotel.<sup>13</sup>

At Cold Spring, three miles north of Cape Island, was the Cold Spring Hotel kept by B. Murphy, in the vicinity of which was a spring of fresh, cold water which emerged in the salt marsh in the center of a salt pond. In 1828 the spring was owned by Virgil M. Davis.<sup>14</sup> At an earlier time it was known as "cool spring." In the January 18, 1759, issue of the "Pennsylvania Gazette," Amos Johnson advertised a 264-acre plantation for sale in Cape May County near "Cool-spring."

The Washington Hotel of Cape May, New Jersey, was built in 1840 on Washington Street. In 1845 it was kept by James Clark. An 1850 map placed it on the south side of Washington Street near the post office.<sup>15</sup> In 1865 George B. Cake was the proprietor. By 1878 it was called the Mineral Spring Hotel.<sup>16</sup>

### Gloucester County

Samuel Mickle, clerk of the Friends Meeting at Woodbury, member of the Fire Company, Abolition Society, Gloucester County Bible Society, Library Company, and associated with other public affairs of the community, wrote in his Diary in 1823, "12-2 Went to mineral

spring 6 minutes from Wm. Howey's. Filled a bottle and was home in 28 minutes from ye spring. About  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles to Howey's, and full  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile further to spring." Mickle lived in Woodbury and on his way to the spring, which may have been in a secluded place, approachable only on foot, he either passed Howey's home or crossed his lands. On the 1860 wall map of the "Vicinity of Philadelphia" by Lake and Beers, the farm of G. Howey is located about one and a half miles east of Woodbury, and the "Clear Spring [farm]" of A. T. Githins about one and a half miles southeast of Woodbury near the Glassboro road. Another clue as to the exact location of the spring is supplied by the advertisement of J. W. Caldwell, at Greenwich Point Ferry, Pennsylvania, who in "The Herald and Gloucester Farmer" of November 12, 1823, offered a plantation for sale situated "on Woodbury Creek, one and a half miles from Woodbury . . . and one mile from the River Delaware." This farm consisted of 225 acres, a two-story brick dwelling house, orchard, barns, etc., and a "Spring House &c., with a Mineral Spring on it." There was a public road running through the property from Philadelphia to Salem, and one from Woodbury to the river.

In 1853 the property of the late Benjamin Whitall was sold at public auction in Woodbury. This 100-acre farm situated between the Glassboro and Egg Harbor roads, a little over a mile from Woodbury, included "a few feet from the kitchen door, a large Spring House, the spring celebrated in the Indian tradition of the country," as one of the best of the county.<sup>17</sup>

A mineral spring was discovered in 1888 at Pitman Grove between First and Twentieth avenues on property owned by the association. Dr. William Jones, of Missouri, while visiting the Grove first discovered the value of the water as a laxative and diuretic. Professor A. P. Brown, of Camden, analyzed the water and found it to contain medicinal properties. Dr. Paste, of Philadelphia, fifteen years previously had advised his patients to go to the Grove for the beneficial effects of the water. The association was going to take measures to guard the spring and provide for the free use of the water.<sup>18</sup>

This spring became the famous Medical Well of Pitman, located in the rear of 166 East Avenue in the Grove. It was very popular, and even after the Grove developed its own water system it was utilized. A well-known restaurant in Philadelphia used the water, and in 1898 the "Woodbury Constitution" remarked upon the visitors to the well and to the fact that barrels of the water were shipped away. It was also used in sprinkling the streets of the Grove.<sup>19</sup>

There was a Pine Grove Mineral Spring at Woodbury from about 1895 to 1900 which at one time reported sales of 104,000 gallons of water valued at \$75,800. Another spring was the Beach Spring, near Woodbury, which operated from about 1899 to 1906. In 1895 "The Health Mineral Spring Water Company" filed articles of incorporation

in the Gloucester County Clerk's Office at Woodbury, the incorporators being Isaac Cohen of Philadelphia, Judge R. S. Clymer and S. F. W. Garrigues of Woodbury. The capital stock was \$100,000. The state charter of this company was forfeited for unpaid taxes in 1905. Finally there was a Fairholme Spring in 1924, with its Post Office at Wenonah, New Jersey.

#### FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER IX

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3. Henry D. Biddle, ed., *Extracts from the Journal of Elizabeth Drinker, 1759-1807* (Philadelphia, 1889), pp. 34-35.
4. *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser* (Philadelphia), June 24, 1814.
5. Myriel L. Jones, "Out of the Past, Laurel Springs," *The Times* (Clementon, N. J.), September 10, 1959, p. 4.
6. *American Sentinel and Mercantile Advertiser* (Philadelphia), November 11, 1824.
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8. John Bell, *The Mineral and Thermal Springs of the United States and Canada* (Philadelphia, 1855), p. 381.
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10. *Camden Daily Courier*, July 3, 1886.
11. *The Post* (Camden, N. J.), February 1, 1890.
12. *Camden Daily Telegram*, June 8, 1897; *The Post* (Camden), June 10, 1897.
13. George H. Cook, *Geology of the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey* (Trenton, 1857).
14. *West Jersey Observer* (Bridgeton, N. J., 1828).
15. Robert Crozer Alexander, *Ho! For Cape Island* (Cape May, N. J., 1956).
16. *A Book of Cape May, New Jersey* (Cape May, N. J., 1937), pp. 84, 111.
17. *The Constitution and Farmers' and Mechanics' Advertiser* (Woodbury, N. J.) August 9, 1853.
18. *Camden Daily Courier*, June 13, 1888.
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## CHAPTER X

### The Mineral Springs of Essex, Hunterdon and Mercer Counties

#### Essex County

##### *Orange Springs*

At a time when the chalybeate mineral spring on Schooley's Mountain was attracting numerous visitors and when the mineral water fever was afflicting more and more people, there was discovered in August, 1820, a new mineral spring on the property of John Williams, at the foot of the first Newark mountain, two miles from the Orange Meeting House. A short time later another spring was found on the property of Dr. John Condit, on the slope of the mountain, a mile west of the one on the property of John Williams. A little later John Condit's property came into the possession of Joseph Condit. These two mineral springs became associated and constituted the resort known later as Orange Springs. Their location on the slope of the Orange Mountain west of Orangedale of the time, proved so accessible to visitors that two weeks after the discovery of the Condit spring it had as many as five hundred visitors on some days, who not only came for the water but to enjoy the wild scenery as well.<sup>1</sup> On Sundays in 1821 and 1822, the main street of Orange was crowded with wagons, chaises and stage coaches from Newark, coming and going with their passengers. Leonard Snow advertised in Newark as early as August, 1820, that he intended to run a stage to the Orange Springs twice each day from Newark.<sup>2</sup> In fact, Snow would call at dwellings to pick up passengers. Another stage proprietor was Thomas Thompson. He started the Mineral Spring Stage which began running on April 1, 1821, from Newark to the spring and return, the round trip fare being 25 cents.<sup>3</sup>

The crowds at the springs on Sundays were numerous and noisy. The quiet Sabbath atmosphere of Orange was rudely shattered. In 1820 church services were held at the Orange Springs in an effort to offset the noise and disorder, but they had little effect, if any. These services were held by Dr. Hillyer and Dr. Ogden, and the same clergymen officiated on July 1, 1821, at which time an anthem was sung by several ladies and gentlemen from Newark. Visitors who wanted to sit while listening to the sermon were expected to bring their own chairs. Stages waited at Morton's Tavern, Newark, at 3:45 P.M. to convey passengers to Orange Springs, and after the

service to take them either to Paulus Hook or Newark.<sup>4</sup> The crowd stayed away from the services, but the Sabbath-breaking continued and the noise of carriages on their way to the Springs kept on, along with profanity and drinking. A few days later a mass meeting was held and Sabbath lovers were warned to stay away from the Springs unless they attended the religious services.

In April, 1821, Joseph Condit and his wife sold their spring property plus fifteen acres of land to James Wadsworth, late of New York, and he planned to build a hotel and to improve the surroundings. The springs continued to grow in popularity. Ichabod Losey started a stage line from 78 Cortlandt Street, New York, to Orange. John D. Tichenor in August, 1821, began to run an "accommodation wagon for passengers to the Orange Springs and so on to Newark and return via Cranetown, Bloomfield and Caldwell and return to Parscippany stage house where he will start from Royal Hopkins' Inn at 7 A.M. and return at 6 P.M.," thus opening up new territory to visitors wanting an excursion with mineral water. Tichenor's entire trip was made in a day, three times weekly.<sup>5</sup> Still another stage line started May 21, 1822, under the proprietorship of Joseph Miller and ran from 77 Cortlandt Street, New York, to Orange Springs, leaving "8, 9 and 10 A.M." and on afternoons at "2 and 3 P.M." Mr. Miller in his announcement mentioned an elegant and spacious hotel then under construction, and the springs, being only twelve miles away, as a pleasant retreat from the sultry atmosphere of New York.<sup>6</sup>

In August, 1821, the Orange Spring Farm was advertised for sale, sixteen miles from New York, containing sixteen acres of cultivated land, fruit trees in bearing, good pasturage, a dwelling house on the premises, occupied as a tavern, a carriage house, accommodations for fifteen or twenty horses, a large gristmill, and a spring of chalybeate water "which has acquired celebrity and attracts many visitors." With a little exertion and proper attention, and with its beautiful scenery, the place was sure to become a fashionable resort. The water of the spring by that time had been tested and found beneficial. A committee appointed by the Essex District Medical Society to inquire into the medical properties of the spring water found that the flow was copious, its temperature during the hottest season being 62° F. During the winter it was observed to "maintain its fluidity twenty rods." George Chelton, of Westfield, New Jersey, a chemist, had found the water to contain per gallon 3.3 grains of carbonated iron, between 4 and 5 grains of sulphur, and traces of salts of magnesia, lime and soda.<sup>7</sup> Among the physicians, Dr. Isaac Pierson said that the water contained properties that could not be excelled as a tonic.

The Orange Spring Company, formed in 1821, bought the property from James Wadsworth, who conveyed it to Ira Munn, Allen Dodd and Isaac Pierson, which they mortgaged for \$7,000. This company took over the Condit Springs. In August, 1822, a three-story build-

ing was erected by the company, called the Orange Spring Hotel, and later leased to Ira Munn, an experienced tavern keeper. Groves, streams, ponds for swans, rustic fences, and foot bridges were developed and a fashionable resort was formed where the well-to-do could dance, dine and drive.<sup>8</sup> Under Munn's management the place flourished. Hundreds of persons were benefited by the water, or thought they were. And many more were benefited by the scenery and rest which they enjoyed. A notice in "The Centinel of Freedom" (Newark) during the end of September, 1822, advertised the Orange Spring Grand Ball for October 1, which Munn was giving at his elegant and fashionable resort, on which occasion an elegant band of music from New York was going to play.

The Orange Spring Company, formed in the fall of 1821 by Dr. Isaac Pierson, who died in 1823, John M. Lindsley, John Harrison, Luther Goble and others, had purchased a farm in Orange Township, Essex County, called the Orange Mineral Spring Farm. They had erected buildings and conveyed the title to Luther Goble, Ichabod Condit, and Charles T. Shipman as trustees for the use and benefit of the associates. In view of this, it was thought necessary to incorporate the associates, and as a result, Isaac Pierson, John M. Lindsley, John M. Harrison, Luther Goble and their associates formed themselves into the Orange Spring Company. The company had the right to hold farms and other lands, goods and chattels, to a value not exceeding \$30,000. The capital stock was \$30,000 divided into shares of \$500 each. The officers were Isaac Pierson, president, John M. Lindsley, treasurer, Daniel Babbit, secretary, and an executive committee consisting of James Lee, David Johnson and John Harrison. A copy of the bill incorporating the Orange Spring Company is among the broadsides of the New Jersey Historical Society. It is undated but appears never to have been enacted into a law or even introduced into the New Jersey legislature.

In April, 1823, Munn offered to rent the house which he occupied before he moved to his new Orange Spring Mansion House. This he finally rented to John F. Gannon. In June, 1823, Munn advertised his new hotel or mansion with "accommodations equal or superior to those of any fashionable retreat in this country." The Springs were celebrated for their medicinal value. The buildings were situated so as to command a view of Newark Bay, Staten Island and Long Island.<sup>9</sup> The air was pure and the scenery was rich. It was widely acclaimed during the summer of 1823 and it was rapidly becoming "a place where the young and the old, the rich and gay, the merchant and mechanic, the healthy and diseased, could steal away to a fount of waters, to partake of them, or to meander in Nature's bower, or to participate in the hospitality of the Mansion House."<sup>10</sup> Even poets sang its praises.



From Schooley's Mount and Ballston's famous Springs  
The music now turns and blooming Orange sings!  
Oh! could the mountain bard but lend a flame  
To charm the heart and eulogize a name.  
Fair Orange! to thy warbling groves we'll hie  
And mark the babbling brook that passes by;  
To lend a sweeter zest to Nature's charms;  
Behold with pleasantry a Munn in arms!  
His mansion proudly rising to the sight  
Yields all the wish of plenty and delight.

During the outbreak of cholera in New York City in 1822, Orange Springs became a Mecca for some of the hundreds of families who left the city to escape the disease. The hotel was filled until well into the autumn, and parties, picnics and dance music occupied the guests. At the beginning of July, 1824, Ira Munn advertised his elegant retreat and Mansion House at Orange Springs as being open to boarders and visitors. His wines and liquors were of the choicest. His table was supplied with the best food that New York could supply. Shady walks along the margin of a descending mountain stream added to the beauty of the natural and cultivated scenery. The water was highly tonic and of service "in cases of general debility and derangement of the stomach." However, in his advertising Munn did not particularly stress the benefits of the chalybeate waters.<sup>11</sup>

On October 19, 1824, a grand union ball was held at the hotel in honor of Lafayette's visit to America and in commemoration of the forty-third anniversary of the surrender of Cornwallis to Washington at Yorktown. However, during the evening of the ball, Lafayette was in Baltimore and not in the company "of ladies and gentlemen from Newark, Elizabethtown, Morristown, Paterson, Bellville, Orange and New York," who graced the ballroom.<sup>7</sup>

The Orange Spring Mansion was advertised for rent in the winter of 1825 by Daniel Smith, presumably the owner. In June of 1825 it was taken by Luther Bunnell. However, in May, 1826, David Roff was running the Mansion House, having removed from "the foot of the Hill to Orange Springs." Seven months later it was offered for sale again by Peter Kean, Elizabethtown, or John Lindley, of Orange, who advertised the Orange Spring Mansion House as an elegant and extensive establishment capable of accommodating one hundred and fifty persons and with possibilities as a genteel boardinghouse. Nothing was said about the mineral spring.<sup>12</sup> In 1830 the establishment, completely repaired with its pleasure grounds tastefully laid out and embellished, and the mansion house furnished with new, elegant furniture, was advertised by I. Thomas as a delightful summer retreat with beautiful surroundings and views and with its mineral and pure spring waters.<sup>13</sup> The popularity of the hotel declined rapidly after 1830. Other places were attracting the fickle public, such as Saragota, Rockaway, Newport, etc. It was in 1830 that the Eclipse Stage Line

was opened between Day's Inn (site of the Public Service Building on Park Place), Newark, and the Orange Spring Mansion. Mr. Thomas kept the hotel open during the summers of 1831 and 1832, beginning on May 31.

During the summer of 1833 and continuing to about 1837, the Mansion House was run by John E. Gillespie, who made improvements in the house and grounds and advertised the mineral waters as the Hygeian Spring, which gave new life and elasticity to those who partook of them. Two coaches ran between the hotel and New York daily, and a steamboat from New York to Newark ran twice each day and was met by coaches that ran to the Mansion House.<sup>14</sup> The resort operated with declining popularity until about 1839. The volume of the mineral spring water diminished. An attempt was made to revive public interest in it. The cuisine was kept perfect. Brass bands played popular music, but the public was apathetic. The Orange Spring Mansion House with fifteen acres of land was bought in 1839 by Alphonse Laulat, and the house was made into a private home. In 1842 Andre Pillot bought the place and additional acreage, bringing the total to one hundred and forty. Its lawns, drives, walks, and lakes were attractions for many years. In 1870 Mr. Pillot became insolvent and his place was bought by Benjamin H. Hutton, of New York, who made improvements and additions and named it Hutton Park. After other owners, it finally came into the hands of the Essex County Country Club, the mansion becoming its first home.<sup>10</sup> Thus ended the one-time gay, fashionable and popular Orange Springs resort.

### *Other Essex County Mineral Springs*

There were other mineral springs in Essex County some from which water was bottled and sold, but none attained the status of a popular spa unless it was the one mentioned in "The New-Jersey Journal" of August 22, 1792, the account of which is herewith quoted. "At the Short Hills, about eight miles from this town [Elizabeth-Town] a Spaw, the efficacious salubrity of which is well known though it has been dormant for some time, is now opening; and it is expected will be in an accomodating condition in a few weeks." In 1879 James Penrose owned or operated the Warwick Spring, 36 Warwick Street, Newark.<sup>15</sup> In 1886 an analysis of the water from this spring showed the following compounds to be present, in grains per gallon: sodium bicarbonate, 11.27; magnesium bicarbonate, 18.09; iron bicarbonate, 2.73; calcium bicarbonate, 41.82; ammonium bicarbonate, 18.43; alumina, 0.70, silicic acid, 0.82; sodium chloride, 13.41; potassium chloride, 5.40, sodium phosphate, 0.09, and a trace of bromine.<sup>16</sup> Water was still being sold from this spring in 1892. In 1924 Fitch listed two mineral springs in Essex County, the Rock

Spring, P. O. West Orange, and the Xlo Water Well, P. O. Cedar Grove.<sup>17</sup>

One of the last mineral springs of note in Essex County was that of John Munkacsy, who operated a picnic ground on the south bank of the Passaic River in Caldwell Township. On January 1, 1937, a new well drilled on the property struck water that gushed forth at the rate of three thousand gallons per hour. The water had a flat taste. Potatoes boiled in it were hard after an hour. The State Department of Health at Trenton reported that the water contained calcium and magnesium sulphate and a wide assortment of minerals essential to health. Its alkalinity rating was more than twice that of the average New York City water. Neighbors who drank the water reported that it relieved ailments ranging from rheumatism to high blood pressure. The fame of the water spread rapidly. People came from places twenty miles away to buy it. At first it was sold for two cents per glass or ten cents per gallon. In a single week, 9,200 gallons were sold at 10 cents each, which amounted to \$920. Customers came with all sorts of containers, and on weekends traffic on the narrow Lane Road to Munkacsy's place was so bad that the entire police force of North Caldwell was called upon to regulate it. Such sudden riches prompted neighboring owners of property to have their own places drilled, and in order to tap the mineral water more than a dozen wells were drilled nearby. After his neighbors began to strike water, Munkacsy erected a twenty-foot banner in front of his place with the words "Demand Munkacsy Red Cross Health Water," and an even longer billboard carried "The One! The Only! The Original! Munkacsy Red Cross Health Water. Do Not Accept Inferior Substitutes." Down the road other signs advertised "Water of Youth," etc. Lots in the vicinity, 50 x 100 feet, sold for \$300 before the boom took place. Afterward, owners were refusing \$5,000 for the same sized properties. Munkacsy leased his well to a syndicate from Newark, New Jersey, which marketed the water as far away as Miami, Florida. Two houses down the lane from Munkacsy's property, a neighbor, A. S. Biczak, had a \$2,000 well drilled which tapped water at four levels. On the first weekend after his well produced water he sold 1,000 gallons at 15 cents per gallon.<sup>18</sup>

## Hunterdon County

### *A Lambertville Mineral Spring*

Among the fifteen mineral springs noted by Constantine S. Rafinesque, the famous early naturalist and controversial figure in scientific circles, during his travels in this country from 1826 to 1835, was one at Lambertville, New Jersey, which he observed in 1834. In his *Life of Travels in North America and South Europe*, published in Philadelphia in 1836, Rafinesque referred to it as "a fine chalybeate



spring . . . hardly half a mile from Lambertville, is not yet known nor frequented, but deserves to be, and two fine villages offer accommodations for boarders." Dr. Alfred G. Petrie, of New Hope and historian of Lambertville, believes Rafinesque's spring to have been the one situated on the hill to the east of Lambertville, which is now within the city limits. Its water was used until the early 1920s, when it was declared unfit for drinking purposes.

From a well drilled in 1937 at Three Bridges, New Jersey, by John Munkacsy a so-called mineral water was sold. The water analyzed "2867 solids," chiefly calcium sulphate. Rights to the water were sold to the Caldwell Mineral Water Company, which apparently is no longer in business.

If Morris County had not been formed from Hunterdon County in 1739, the latter would have contained the famous Schooley's Mountain Spring. In 1789 Jedidiah Morse, in his *American Geography*, mentioned that: "In the county of Hunterdon, near the top of Muskonetkony mountain, is a noted medicinal spring, to which invalids resort from every quarter." Apparently he was not aware that he was writing about Morris County at the time.

## Mercer County

### *Trenton Mineral Spring*

Considerable interest was aroused in Trenton, New Jersey, during the summer of 1819 by the discovery of a mineral spring in the rear of the Rising Sun Tavern, whose site is now occupied by The American House at the southwest corner of Warren and Hanover streets. The water was analyzed by a Philadelphia chemist whose findings were reported as follows in the "Trenton Federalist." "It appears from his analysis to be Calybiate, in which iron is held in solution by Carbonic acid and contains a small quantity of lime, probably dissolved by the intermedium of Muriatic acid, which seems to exist in minute proportions."<sup>19</sup>

The first notice about the mineral spring was a news item in "The True American" (Trenton, N. J.) of August 16, 1819. The spring was discovered while a well was being dug on the lot belonging to John Anderson, innkeeper of Trenton. The author of the news item wrote, after referring to the chalybeate character of the water, "if we had but the rough roads, rugged precipices, huge rocks and high mountains, it might soon be as celebrated as Schooley's."<sup>20</sup>

A notice in "The True American" of June 2, 1821, entitled "Trenton Mineral Spring" informed the public that the spring formerly kept by the subscriber adjoining Mr. Herbert's Rising Sun Tavern, formerly kept by John Anderson, was now open for the accommodation of invalids and others, under the care of Mrs. Lafaucherie. The subscriber was John Lafaucherie, and Mrs. Lafaucherie was his sister-in-law,

“an amiable and deserving woman who will pay every possible attention to those who favor her with their custom.” As early as January 10, 1814, John Anderson had advertised his tavern for sale and it finally came into the possession of Mr. Herbert. Lafaucherie apparently expected financial gain from his ownership of the spring. He had established facilities for the sale of the water and even had a “Pump-Room” like the fashionable spas where guests could meet and partake of the water. In addition he sold ice cream in his pump room. His advertising continued during the summer of 1821, In July of that year the Phoenix Hotel, which had recently opened next door to the Rising Sun and directly opposite the post office, mentioned in its advertising that it was within a few steps of the mineral spring. It

## **A Mineral Spring**

Has lately been discovered in digging a well on the lot of Mr JOHN ANDERSON, Innkeeper, in this city. The water is a tolerably strong Chalybeate; is very cold, and not unpleasant to the taste. It is already much resorted to; and if we had but the rough roads, rugged precipices, huge rocks and high mountains, might soon become as celebrated as *Schooley's*. It has been found beneficial in many cases of disordered stomachs, loss of appetite, debility, &c.

DISCOVERY OF A MINERAL SPRING IN TRENTON, N. J.

(From “The True American,” Trenton, N. J., of August 16, 1819.)

also had other advantages such as good liquor, pleasant bedrooms, and board and lodging for \$1.25 per day. As the stages did not stop at his house, visitors would find it a quiet and restful place.<sup>20</sup>

In 1822 Mrs. Eli Lafaucherie was on her own, as on July 20 of that year, according to “The True American” (Trenton, N. J.) she advertised “Ice Creams, &c. At the Mineral Pump; in Trenton,” over her own name. The mineral spring had become a mineral pump. The water was advertised as efficacious in all cases of indigestion, sickness of the stomach and all cases of a bilious nature, as established

by the experience of three years. Mrs. Lafaucherie also had beer and other "proper refreshments" for sale.

The Rising Sun Tavern made no attempt to capitalize on the nearness of the mineral spring. In 1835 it was under the management of Joshua Hollinshead. It had "airy lodging rooms and spacious elegant parlors." In 1845, on February 27, at the Philadelphia Exchange, it was to be sold at a public sale. Its property had stables for fifty horses, an ice house, bath house, and poultry house. A full share of its patronage consisted of members of the Legislature and of the Bar.<sup>21</sup> In February of 1847 it burned to ashes. Much of its furniture was saved, and Mr. Wood, the proprietor, and Mr. English, the landlord, were both insured sufficiently to cover their respective losses.<sup>22</sup> Of the mineral spring nothing more was heard after 1822. The Lafaucherie family had done its best to capitalize upon the spring, and the Phoenix Hotel had helped a little by mentioning the spring in its advertising, but apparently the citizens of Trenton were not sufficiently impressed by ordinary well water containing iron to make it a financial success for its owners.

However, the mineral spring was only one of John Lafaucherie's business activities. In 1814 he with John Gulic and Robert Letson announced that their steamboat stages continued to run from the Philadelphia steamboat to New York every Monday and Friday. In 1815 Lafaucherie advised the public that the Trenton and Philadelphia stages, owned by him, would run daily between Trenton and Philadelphia as soon as the steamboats stopped running. In 1814 Lafaucherie and G. H. Vanderman operated a daily line of stages between Trenton and Philadelphia, and Lafaucherie continued in this business for many years, usually in partnership with others.<sup>23</sup>

Dr. Charles C. Abbott, New Jersey's famous naturalist, archaeologist and author, wrote in 1866<sup>24</sup> that in the "mucky" meadow not far from his old homestead, "Three Beeches" a few miles south of Trenton, New Jersey, on the Delaware River, a friend, Miles Overland, had discovered an iron spring. Abbott visited the location and found the spring surrounded by a "treacherous semi-quicksand." He tasted the water and found it to be strongly suggestive of sulphuretted hydrogen and not at all palatable. He was at a loss to account for such a spring in the meadows "built up of mud and gravel hundreds of feet in depth." He knew of a sulphur spring some four miles away in the hills but there did not appear to be any connection between the two.

Abbott, later writing about the Crosswicks meadows, saw little difference between a "boiling spring" and a "quicksand," the former being an "upward movement of a narrow column of water, an insignificant amount of sand; the other a far greater bulk of water, so charged with sand that its movement is very deliberate." He referred to the quicksand as a "huge boiling spring" and repeated a piece of



folklore current in his childhood, about a dozen sheep that were caught in the quicksand, sucked out of sight, nine of them turning up more than a half day later on Duck Island in the Delaware River, a half mile distant.<sup>25</sup>

#### FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER X

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3. *Ibid.*, March 5, 1821.
4. *Ibid.*, June 26, 1821.
5. *Ibid.*, August 20, 1821.
6. *New York Evening Post*, May 18, 1822.
7. David Lawrence Pierson, *The History of the Oranges* (New York, 1922), Vol. II.
8. Miriam Studley, "When Newark Was Young," *Newark Sunday News*, June 26, 1949.
9. *New York Commercial Advertiser*, June 3, 1823.
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## CHAPTER XI

### The Mineral Springs of Middlesex, Monmouth and Morris Counties

#### Middlesex County

##### *The Woodbridge Spaw*

##### *"Lately Erected*

"And as soon as the Season will permit, will be opened, A New and Convenient Bath,

"In which is a Room properly constructed to undress and dress in with a Stair-Case leading into the Bathing Room, where Persons, of either Sex may bathe in Salt-Water, in the greatest Privacy; and for those that choose to swim off into deeper Water, a Door is so placed in the Bath, that they can conveniently go out and return.

"The Building is near the End of a Wharf opposite to the Bay, at the Mouth of Rariton River: This Bath will be more beneficial, as at about two Miles Distance is a Mineral Water, similar to the German Spaw, which hath proved of the greatest Efficacy in many Disorders, its proper Distance procuring moderate Exercise after bathing has proved in Many Instances very assistant to the Medicinal Quality of the Waters; which with great Success have been directed after bathing in Sea Water. The Qualities of this Spaw have been well examined by several Physicians of Ability, and frequently recommended by them particularly by the present Doctor Johnston, as well as his Father."

Such was one of the earliest mineral springs of New Jersey to be noted in print. The notice of both bath and spring appeared in the March 9, 1772 issue of "The New-York Gazette, or the Weekly Post-Boy." The year 1772 is within a half dozen or so years of the first-mentioned mineral springs of New England, although it is not supposed that the spring was by any means as popular as the early Massachusetts and Connecticut springs. The mineral spring, two miles from the mouth of the Raritan River, was along the road (Spa Spring Road) dividing the townships of Perth Amboy and Woodbridge and was chalybeate in composition like the spring at Schooley's Mountain, but of less strength. Apparently one John Hampton operated the bath house in 1772 and in 1773 or later. A two-mile walk from the bath house to the mineral spring probably did not

attract numerous visitors. In "The Pennsylvania Journal" of June 16, 1773, the advertisement after mentioning the "Convenient Bath" at Perth Amboy being in good order said, "The Mineral Spring (similar to the German Spaw) is also in good order; which with the Bath has proved efficacious to scorbutic, and other disorders. N. B. Genteel Lodging to be had in private families."

Persons having property for sale in the neighborhood of mineral springs frequently cited the nearness to the spring in order to enhance the real estate value of their holdings. An early instance of this kind appeared in the "Gazette of the United States" (Philadelphia) for July 13, 1798, wherein was advertised for sale an "elegantly situated brick house and lot with eight or nine acres of land" fronting on High



Northwest corner of a map of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, showing the location of Spa Spring in Woodbridge Township, and the Spa Spring station on the railroad.

(From *State Atlas of New Jersey*, 1872, by F. W. Beers.)

Street in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. The front commanded a view of the harbor and bay down to Sandy Hook, and the rear a view of the Raritan River toward New Brunswick. In addition, a public bath was available on the shore, not far from the house, and two miles distant was a mineral spring. Although not named, the spring was without a doubt the Woodbridge "Spaw."<sup>1</sup>

In 1856 William A. Whitehead remembered the Spa mineral spring as having been fitted up several times, at the expense of users, with a roof, seats and other appliances, but the waters were "never of sufficient repute to attract attention from abroad." Whitehead quoted that several physicians had examined the water and it was recommended by them, particularly by Dr. Johnstone and his father.<sup>2</sup> Dr.



Johnstone was Dr. Lewis Johnstone, a physician of Perth Amboy, highly respected and loved by all who knew him. He died November 22, 1773. His father, Dr. John Johnstone, also a physician, was a member of the Provincial Assembly of New Jersey, representing Middlesex County for thirteen years, for ten of which he was speaker. He died September 7, 1732.

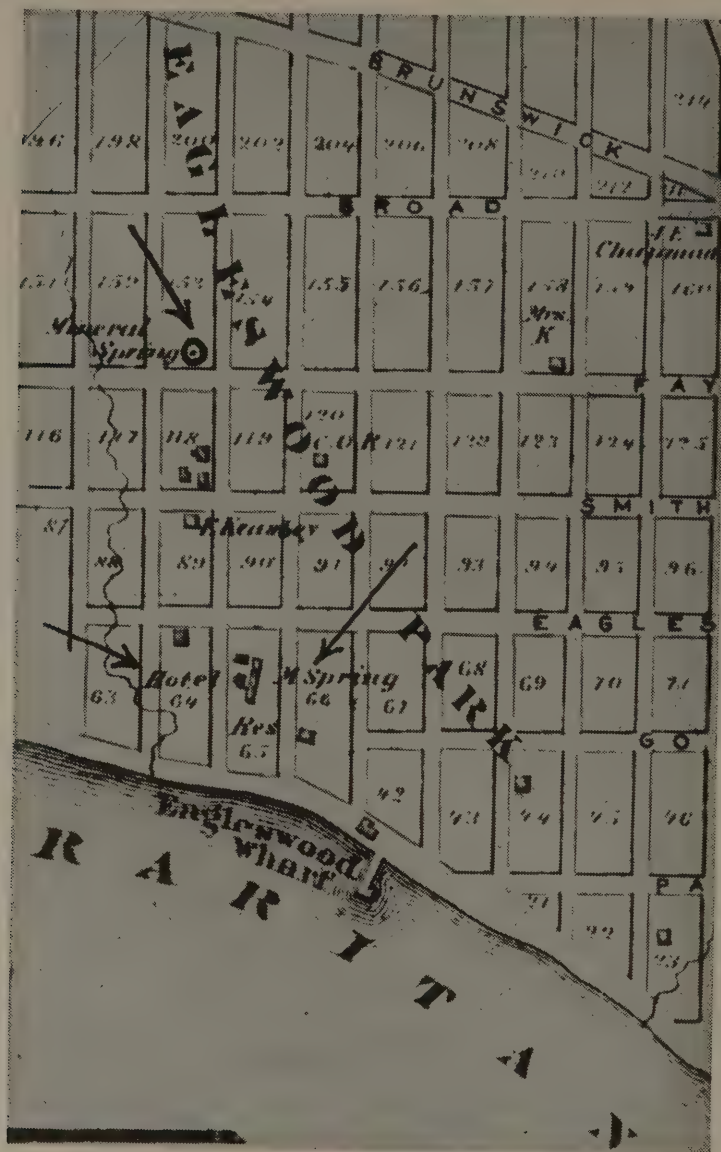
On March 17, 1866, The American Spa Spring Company of the Township of Woodbridge in Middlesex County was incorporated to manufacture and sell mineral water for a period of fifty years. The total capital was to be \$50,000 (2,000 shares at \$25.00 each). Business was to start when \$6,000 worth of stock was subscribed and the incorporators were Frederick J. Emmerich, 1,080 shares; Lewis G. Hansen, 400 shares; Moritz Meyer, 400 shares; Julius J. Valentine, 60 shares, all of Hoboken, N. J.; and Robert Froehlick, of New York City, 60 shares.<sup>3</sup>

When a branch railroad was built from Perth Amboy to Rahway, connecting with the Pennsylvania line to New York, in 1873, one of the stations was named "Spa Spring."<sup>4</sup> In the U. S. Geological Survey Report for 1886, Spa Spring is located at Woodbridge with the notation "temperature cold, chalybeate, unimproved, water once bottled and sold." However, in 1892 water was being sold from it.<sup>5</sup> Bernard J. Dunigan, 325 Amboy Avenue, Woodbridge Township, clerk of Woodbridge since 1927 and born in Woodbridge in 1875, advised us that as a lad of eighteen or twenty years he had slaked his thirst at the famous spa spring and so far as he could recall the water had tasted "all right."

### *Perth Amboy Springs*

Greene wrote that a new mineral spring was discovered around 1823 at Perth Amboy where a convenient and elegant hotel named the "Rariton House" existed, run by Cleaveland or Cleveland Forbes.<sup>6</sup> Forbes, a large land owner in Perth Amboy, was a vestryman of St. Peters Protestant Episcopal Church of Perth Amboy in 1812 and from 1816 to 1817.<sup>2</sup> In the *State Atlas of New Jersey* published in 1872 by F. W. Beers, a mineral spring is indicated in Perth Amboy on Fayette Street near Fourteenth Street on the corner of Lot No. 153. On Lot 64 a hotel is indicated. This may have been the "Rariton House," mentioned by Greene, with its nearby mineral spring. Both hotel and spring were close to Eagleswood wharf on the Raritan River. As Perth Amboy was never built according to the map in Beers' atlas of 1872, the described locations are meaningless for a modern map of the area. Eagleswood Park was the site of the Raritan Bay Union that was incorporated February 14, 1853, and capitalized for \$500,000, and authorized to start business with \$6,000 consisting of 240 shares at \$25.00 each. The Union was started by some members, including

Marcus Spring, of the North American Phalanx, located near Red Bank, New Jersey, and founded in 1842, who were not satisfied with the Phalanx. A large brownstone building with brick trim was built and conveyed to the Union in October, 1853. This was of a type suitable for community living. "The West Jerseyman" (Camden, N. J.) of August 15, 1855, commented upon this, stating that Eagleswood was the name given to "a novel settlement" of four hundred acres of land to be sold in lots to members of the community. The peculiarity of the place was the stone mansion in the middle of the tract where community activities such as washing, baking, storage,



Southwest corner of a map of Perth Amboy, New Jersey, showing the location of a mineral spring, a hotel and the property of Marcus Spring, all in Eagleswood Park.

(From *State Atlas of New Jersey*, 1872, by F. W. Beers.)

education and mechanical operations were performed. A school had been organized, an efficient laundry was open and a restaurant was under way. The residents expected to benefit by the economies involved in wholesale buying and in the distribution to them of goods, food and fuel at cost prices.

Marcus Spring, who founded the military academy at Eagleswood and who was active in New York business circles and associated with Horace Greeley in cooperative movements, died at his home in Eagleswood, Perth Amboy, on August 21, 1874, at the age of sixty-four.

Various important persons joined the Union and for a time it had an interesting history. In November, 1856, Henry Thoreau visited Eagleswood. The Union was disbanded during the Civil War. Theodore Dwight Weld, the well-known abolitionist and temperance leader, established a school at Eagleswood, but he left around 1860 or 1861 and the school became the Eagleswood Military Academy. About the end of the 1860s this venture ended. According to a news item in the "Woodbridge Gazette" for June 1 and 22, 1867, Daniel Drew, of New York City, tried to buy the Eagleswood property for the establishment of a Methodist Theological Institute and met the price asked by Marcus Spring. However, the deal never went through because Mr. Spring wanted to retain an interest in the property. By 1871 the school had become the Eagleswood Park Hotel. Under foreclosure in 1888, the property went to the Mutual Beneficial Insurance Company. Then it was sold to the Calvin Pardee Tile Company.<sup>7</sup>

In 1764 The Westminster, a colonial house, was built at 149 Kearny Avenue in Perth Amboy by the Proprietors of the Province of East Jersey for Governor William Franklin, the last royal governor of New Jersey. In May, 1793, the title by a legislative act became vested in Walter Rutherford as president of the Council of Proprietors and he was given authority to sell it. After the Revolutionary War the interior was damaged by fire. On May 1, 1794, John Rattoon became the owner of the house and eleven acres of land, on assignment from Jos. Bloomfield. In 1808 he sold it to Richard Woodhull for \$8,000, having originally bought it for \$1,050. Woodhull added a south wing, made his place into a summer resort, changed the name of the place to the Brighton House, and rented it to B. H. Tomlinson as proprietor. Perth Amboy before the war was known favorably as a summer resort, and the Brighton House with its many servants, its lavish entertainment and its music became well known to those who could afford to stay there during the summer and enjoy the cool refreshing breezes of the ocean, and as well, if they cared to, the health-giving waters of either nearby mineral springs or those of Spa Spring two miles distant on Spa Spring Road. It was easily reached by steamboat from New York and New Brunswick. In 1819 an adver-



tisement in the "New Jersey Gazette" of August 5 mentioned Perth Amboy, abounding with mineral springs of health-giving qualities, as a desirable place for summer residence. Some of its springs were equal to those of Schooley's Mountain, the advertisement claimed. Certainly the Brighton House had one advantage. Its guests in search of mineral water could get it from the nearby springs. On April 11, 1794, when the Government House was advertised in the "Jersey Journal" for a public sale, mention was made of the view of the Raritan River to the west and of the Bay and Sandy Hook to the east from its location.

In 1811 Woodhull, a New York merchant, sold the Brighton House property to James Maxwell for \$30,000, but the War of 1812 ruined the resort business. In 1816 it was again sold and Rattoon, who still held the mortgage, foreclosed. At the sheriff's sale it was bought on October 24, 1817, by Matthew Bruen, and it remained in the Bruen family until 1883 when it became the Presbyterian Home, Westminster. At present it is owned by Milton and George Teltsher, of Orange, New Jersey.<sup>1</sup>

### *Bishop's Well*

In 1880 calcareous water was recorded from Bishop's Well in New Brunswick, New Jersey, but nothing else appears to be on record about it.<sup>8</sup> There was a Mullin's Spring with its post office at Perth Amboy in 1924.<sup>9</sup>

## **Monmouth County**

### *Tinton Falls Mineral Spring*

In addition to its ocean bathing facilities, Monmouth County had its mineral springs which, although much less popular than its beaches, managed to attract attention from devotees of mineral waters. One of the earliest known to the first settlers as well as to the Indians to whom all springs were known, is the mineral spring at Tinton Falls, six miles westward from Long Branch, ten miles northeast of Freehold, and two and one-half miles from Shrewsbury. The original name of this place was Tinturn Falls, from Tinturn Abbey, England, the ancient manor of the Morris family. It was named by Colonel Lewis Morris, colonial governor of East Jersey from 1738 to 1746, whose estate was there, Shrewsbury being the capital of the province. Governor Morris' uncle, Lewis Morris, had owned iron works at Eatontown.<sup>1</sup> Gordon in 1834 described the falls and spring: "The water of the S. E. branch of Swimming river, falls over a sand rock, filled with animal remains, and forming a cascade of about 30 feet high. From this rock flows a copious chalybeate spring, which is frequently visited by those who seek health or amusement at the boarding houses near the coast."<sup>2</sup>

The spring is actually located one hundred feet or more to the north of the brook. In 1838 Robert Morris opened a boardinghouse, within three hundred yards of the spring, which became known as the Mineral Springs Hotel. It was situated, according to James S. Brown, at the southeast corner of Tinton Avenue and Sycamore Avenue in what was then Shrewsbury Township, now New Shrewsbury Borough. The old portion of the Tinton Falls Fire House on this site is said to have been the stable for the hotel. One of the posts in the plaza of the Mineral Springs Hotel was supposed to have been a part of a large flagstaff set up by the Continentals during the Revolution.<sup>3</sup> According to some, the hotel was burned, but Henry C. Beck states that the hotel was there in 1943 as a dwelling near the corner and opposite the old mill and land owned at present by Gaza de Vegh, who supposedly owns the spring.<sup>4</sup>



TINTON FALLS MINERAL SPRING  
(From "Atlas of Monmouth County, New Jersey,"  
by Beers, Comstock & Cline, New York, 1873.)

However, a much earlier reference to it was called to our attention by James S. Brown. This occurred in "The New York Gazette" of October 17, 1765, where Lewis Morris Ashfield, a grandson of Governor Lewis Morris, offered property for sale in Shrewsbury Township, probably the original Morris property at Tinton Falls. Ashfield wanted to sell the estate on which he lived, a tract of about a thousand acres. He was willing to divide it into lots, and his description of its advantages includes the statement, "as the house is situated near the famous spaw spring, it would suit extremely well a person who would keep a boarding house for the numbers that come to that spring for their health, and might in a little time, become a considerable place of resort for people of the best fashion." Governor Morris' will of



1746 left the property to a son, Robert Hunter Morris, and his will of 1764 does not mention property or Lewis Morris Ashfield. James S. Brown, in a preliminary check, found that Ashfield was the child of a daughter of Governor Morris, not named in his will, and suggests that Robert Hunter Morris may have given or sold this property to his sister because she had been cut out of her father's will.

The Tinton Falls Spring, by reason of its clear, sparkling water, was visited by many summer residents of the shore. Dr. Lewis Sayre is said to have given it his unqualified approval because of its tonic effects. In 1866 Dr. Z. W. Scriven and others became interested in developing it. This resulted in the formation of the Tinton Falls Mineral Spring Company, which was incorporated by the Legislature of New Jersey on April 9, 1867, the incorporators being Frederick



TINTON FALLS MINERAL SPRING

(Photograph by Howard R. Kemble, 1960.)

W. Downer, E. Boudinot Colt, Francis Corlies, Henry M. Alexander, Z. W. Scriven, and Arthur Wilson. The amount of capital stock authorized was \$50,000, divided into shares of \$50 each. The period of incorporation was thirty years.<sup>5</sup> The corporation had authority to erect buildings and to sell and ship the water. The spring was purchased, together with three-fourths of an acre of land connected with it, and deeded to Fred W. Downing of New York. It is said that but for the indifference of some persons a summer hotel would have been built near it. It seems strange that the company planned to ship the water, because after standing a few hours the color resembled cider



and eventually its other solids would be deposited and colored by hydrated oxide of iron. The incorporators must have known this because the ground over which the overflow ran off was covered by the yellowish hydrated oxide of iron.

Someone was interested enough in October, 1882, to forward a sample of the water to the Museum of Hygiene, United States Navy, Washington, D. C., for analysis, as a reply from Washington dated December 26, 1882, signed by Dr. I. M. Browne and directed to Dr. A. L. Gihon, reported that the reaction of the water was neutral; the water was slightly turbid; "calcic and magnesian carbonate 4.06 grains per gallon, chlorides 1.05 grains per gallon, undetermined 4.15 grains per gallon, total solids 10.26 grains per gallon." The undetermined solids consisted almost entirely of "silicate of alumina, with traces of iron, lime, magnesia, potassa, soda and sulphuric acid." The early writers and observers who decided that the spring was strongly chalybeate could have been influenced by what their eyes saw, not realizing that traces of iron over the landscape could build up over the years into what appeared to be considerable amounts.

At this writing the spring is still in existence, flowing continuously, not far from the picturesque cascade of the Falls, the path of its overflow in the wooded glade marked by the yellowish deposit of hydrated oxide of iron. It is about ten feet in diameter, enclosed by a circular, brick wall to a depth of nine or ten feet or more. Its surface is covered with a yellowish scum and occasional leaves and twigs from nearby trees. Just beneath the quiet surface of the spring, its gentle, clear overflow emerges from a short length of iron pipe and meanders irregularly down a slight declivity leaving a yellow trail in its wake.

We believe that the Tinton Falls Mineral Spring was the one referred to on September 9, 1749, in *The Life of John Brainard*, the Indian missionary, written by Thomas Brainard and published in 1865. In John Brainard's "Journal" the entry dated August 22, 1749, reads as follows, "Attended religious duties, and after some time took leave of Dr. Peter Laconte [a pious parishioner of Tennent's] and his spouse and rode about three miles to a medicinal spring, where were a number of my people [Indians] who came there to drink the waters; with these I spent considerable time in conversation and prayer. Took leave of them, and went to several houses in Freehold, where I had business, and in the evening came to Mr. Tennent's [Rev. William Tennent], and after some conversation with him, attended to religious duties and went to rest." Again, on September 9, 1749, his journal recorded, "Attended morning devotions in the family and secret; but had not much life; yet I had some real desire to love and glorify God. May the blessed Lord increase the same! Spent a little time in reading the Bible; afterwards rode about fifteen miles to visit a number of my people, who were gone to a medicinal spring, being valetudinary. Conversed with them, and then prayed with them and, taking leave

of them, called at Rev. Mr. Tennent's, and then came home." Tinton Falls is about twelve miles from Freehold.

The mineral spring referred to by John Brainard on August 22, after he left the Lacontes, as being about three miles distant was, according to the *History of Old Tennent Church* (1904) by Rev. Frank R. Symmes, possibly the one on the farm of Staats C. Stillwell, about three miles from Old Tennent Church. This iron spring, now very much filled in and forgotten, is on the farm of Oliver Stillwell on N. J. Route 9-4, being the first farmhouse north of Gordon's Corner overpass.

### *Paint Island Spring*

Thomas Gordon, in his interesting and still reliable *Gazetteer* of 1834, described another Monmouth County mineral spring on the



PAINT ISLAND SPRING

(Reproduced from a photograph by William F. Augustine for *More Forgotten Towns of Southern New Jersey*, by permission of the author, Henry Charlton Beck.)

boundary between Upper and Lower Freehold townships, "five miles east of Wrightsville and near the source of Toms' River." This was known as Paint Island Spring. Quoting from his account with its out-dated chemistry, "This is a large chalybeate spring whose waters hold so great a quantity of the super carbonate of iron, blended with the black oxide of iron in solution, that they leave a very extensive deposit of this mineral. By exposure to the air an atom of carbonic



acid escapes, the oxide takes another atom of oxygen from the atmosphere, and is precipitated in the form of oxy-carbonate, an insoluble powder of a yellow colour. The colour may be converted into a beautiful brown by heating the yellow ochre sufficiently to expel its carbonic acid, leaving behind the second oxide of iron. The heat of boiling water is sufficient for this purpose; and the ore so changed has most of the properties of umber." A manufacturer of such paint gave the name to the spring. It was known formerly as Lawrence's Spring, but in 1834 it was supposed to belong to Samuel G. Wright. During Gordon's time the spring water was thought to possess medicinal properties by nearby inhabitants, and picnics were held near it during the summer.<sup>2</sup>

Henry C. Beck visited this spring about 1936 and located it on the farm of James Longstreet, at the foot of a maple tree whose roots had formed a latticework around its edge. It was not attractive. Its surface had an oily appearance and the surrounding marsh was tinged with rich ochre. From beneath its surface its overflow ran free and clear. At one time it was walled in, and Mr. Longstreet recalled that physicians used to send patients to the spring to partake of its waters. The vicinity then had a dance hall and flying horses. On Saturday nights the place was gay and many buggies were tied up along the road. He also remembered when the soil around the spring was dug up and carted to a paint manufacturer in Imlaystown.<sup>6</sup>

### *The Newman Springs*

Returning toward the coast, we find that in 1868 about two miles southwest of Red Bank there were the Newman Springs with their iron and sulphur waters, and the Newman Springs Hotel, a summer resort on the high bank of Swimming River (a branch of the Navesink River), a picturesque spot embracing a slope, broad lawns, groves and arbors.<sup>3</sup> The springs were named for Morris Newman, a squatter on the property before 1650. When East Monmouth was bought by the Twelve Proprietors, Newman was dispossessed. He had a good house on the property built of bricks from Holland. Newman was a hunter and fisherman who acquired some means from the sale of pelts and game. His place, of course, was known to the Indians before he appeared on the scene.

The property eventually came into the hands of Charles Leighton, a wealthy businessman of New York (on Canal Street), San Francisco and New Orleans, who saw possibilities in the site when he came to Red Bank. He built the Newman Springs Hotel, a 100-guest-room place, at a cost of more than \$20,000. Water from the springs was piped to every part of the hotel. He spent more money in constructing walks along the banks and in landscaping the property with shade trees and flowering shrubs. He ran the hotel himself for a number of



years and owned much property in the western section of Red Bank, including Leighton Hall in Red Bank. His ownership extended to land along the river south of Newman Springs. Much of his land was divided into building lots with streets cut through. Close to a mineral spring on the property at the foot of the hill leading to the Newman Springs bridge, he built a summerhouse that was open to the public and in frequent use as a resting place by people out for a Sunday walk. Rustic houses with seats and tables were available in other parts of the grounds. Ponds built at the foot of the bank near the hotel were stocked with fish, and gullies were transformed into miniature lakes by the construction of dams.



#### NEWMAN SPRINGS

The springs were located in the triangle formed by Swimming River and what is now Newman Springs Road.

(From "Atlas of Monmouth County, New Jersey," by Beers, Comstock & Cline, New York, 1873.)

The Leighton House and Newman Springs were advertised nearly every day of August, 1873, in the "New-York Daily Tribune" at which time Frederick Berger was the proprietor. Mention was made of this delightful summer resort on the Shrewsbury River, with its fishing, boating, bathing, billiards and fine drives. Readers were asked to send for a circular. The cuisine was in charge of an experienced French cook. The cellar contained the finest vintages. And

there were excellent accommodations for excursion parties from Long Branch. According to the same newspaper for August 6, 1874, Thomas Price was the proprietor. His advertising mentioned the surf bathing on the beach at Seabright and Long Branch in addition to the charms of the rustic retreat at Newman Springs.

After a period of business success, Leighton met with reverses. The property became run down. After his death in 1881, deterioration proceeded rapidly. The walks became overgrown with vegetation, ponds overflowed, the rustic houses fell apart, the summerhouse at the spring vanished. The hotel, although rented at times after Leighton's death, was not kept up and the various proprietors could not make it pay. Mary Ann Leighton, his wife, inherited his estate, and at her death the property went to Mrs. Abigail Harris and Miss Amelia Butler. Some of the property was divided between them and some they sold. Mrs. Harris got the Newman Springs Hotel as part of her share. A year or two later the property was purchased by Mrs. May Ferris, daughter of Mrs. Abigail Harris, who in 1896 sold the premises and buildings together with twenty acres of land to J. H. Slavin, a wealthy New Yorker who saw a future in the place.<sup>7</sup>

Mrs. Harry Osborn, eighty years old, of East Bergen Place, Red Bank, remembers the Newman Springs Hotel as a large three-story structure. A part of the hotel that escaped a fire is now the present River Crest Nursing Home.

Before Charles Leighton built his hotel, a Charles G. Allen bought a large tract of land near Newman Springs and built a large number of schooners and sloops thereon, on level ground at the top of a nearby hill. The vessels were launched on a runway. At present, all that is left to remind one of this activity is a long, sloping gully extending from the top of the hill to the edge of the river.

### *Long Branch Mineral Spring*

Moving to the south along the coast, we come to Long Branch, known as a watering place to Philadelphians as early as 1788, along with Tucker's Beach and Long Beach further down the coast. Several mineral springs were discovered in the vicinity of Long Branch around 1828 on the property of John Hopper, by a physician from Philadelphia. These springs were more or less alike in composition, and their waters had a tonic effect. One of them, the Long Branch Mineral Spring at Oceanville (formerly Bennett Town), was reached by the Beach drive and Woolley Avenue or through the village and the M. & O. turnpike. After their discovery they were popular with visitors. The owner of the property, John Hopper, had given the doctor permission to sink casks and put curbing around them. They were finally buried for want of use and forgotten.

In the 1860s, Messrs. Green & Cade bought the property and in their operation of renewing the mill dam in the fall of 1865 the spring was rediscovered, the water analyzed and found valuable. A springhouse was erected. As a result the place again became popular with invalids. On the night of June 25, 1867, a freshet swept away the dam and moved the springhouse, which prevented the spring from being used during the summer, but it was restored and in 1868 the visitors had free spring water again. Professor Jno. C. Draper, an analytical chemist of New York, analyzed the water and found it to contain per gallon, carbonate of iron, 4.25 grains; sulphate and muriate of soda, 1 grain; sulphate and carbonate of iron, 1 grain; organic matter and volatile substances, 1.91 grains; total solid residuum, 7.17 grains.<sup>1, 8</sup>

On April 9, 1867, the Long Branch Mineral Spring Company was incorporated by the New Jersey Legislature, the bill having been in-



LONG BRANCH MINERAL SPRING

(From the *Album of Long Branch*, by J. H. Schenck, New York, 1868. Photograph taken after a freshet of June 25, 1867, had moved the springhouse.)

troduced in the Senate by Henry S. Little, senator from Monmouth County. The body corporate consisted of Zebulon W. Scriven, Thomas G. Chattle, who later became a state senator from Monmouth, James O. Green, John C. Draper, all physicians, and Charles Haight, R. Cornell White, George Cade, John C. White, John V. Conover, Samuel Laird, George H. Green, Elwyn S. Green and Francis Corlies. They were authorized to operate in Ocean and Lincoln townships of Monmouth County and to sell and ship from mineral springs therein. The capital stock was \$25,000, divided into shares of \$25 each. The period of incorporation was thirty years.<sup>9</sup> Z. W. Scriven and Francis Corlies were also incorporators of the Tinton Falls Mineral Spring Company, incorporated on the same day.



Dr. Zebulon W. Scriven lived on Main Street, Long Branch, in a building designed and erected under his direction in 1857. The architecture was Roman Doric, with fluted columns. Everything was painted white, and it was a pretentious, dignified dwelling with a sixty-two foot frontage. In the rear were a garden and an orchard. Scriven owned half a farm at Farmingdale. He was also financially interested in a general store on Main Street, Long Branch, known as the New York Store, the proprietors being Scriven and "Dilencash." It had show windows and revolving stools along the counters. It did a cash business only, and also bought supplies from country people for cash. Scriven moved to Long Branch from Troy, New York, in 1854, and from then on he was identified with Long Branch interests. He was also a surgeon and had graduated at the Albany Medical College. As Long Branch was without a bank for some years, he represented the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank at Middletown Point, forwarding weekly deposits and obtaining discounts for persons.<sup>8</sup>

The Long Branch Mineral Spring was still supplying water in 1873<sup>10</sup> and also in 1886, according to the United States Geological Survey report on mineral springs for that year.

In 1868 at the Pavilion Hotel on the beach at Long Branch, some ten feet from the bluff, two casks were set curbing a spring "impregnated with soda and lime." The casks became filled with sand during the winter storms, but they were cleaned out in the spring of the year and the water was drunk by summer boarders.<sup>1</sup> From the Jackson property at the corner of Long Branch and Atlantic avenues in Long Branch flowed a stream, known by the Indians as Manahasen, at the head of which was an old Indian chalybeate spring.<sup>1</sup>

Bennett's Hotel of Long Branch possessed a summer spring that was discoverable at low tide after the remains of the hotel had been swallowed by the ocean. Bennett's, the first boarding house on the shore, was built in 1803 by Joshua Bennett, two hundred yards north of the village on a bluff. Joshua ran the place until the winter of 1818-19 when it was bought at a sheriff's sale by Judge Quay. A week later it was destroyed by fire. The ruins were undermined and carried away by the ocean, and the spring eventually disappeared from view.<sup>1</sup>

### *The Manasquan Springs*

The Manasquan Springs were discovered accidentally during the summer or fall of 1876. The proprietor, Charles W. Sutterly, of the Ocean House at Point Pleasant, New Jersey, needing a larger supply of water for household use, had borings made in the neighborhood of the hotel, which was located equally distant from the Atlantic Ocean and Barnegat Bay. At a considerable depth below the low-water

mark, a reservoir of water different from any known in the locality arose in the pipe to the surface. Samples of the water were sent to Dr. Albert P. Brown, of Camden, and also to Edwin H. Bogardus, a chemist employed by the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture and located at the Agricultural College in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Dr. Brown was connected with the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. In 1869 he was in business as a druggist, chemist and perfumer at the northeast corner of Fifth and Federal streets, Camden, New Jersey.<sup>11</sup> Their analyses revealed that the water contained sodium chloride, sodium sulphate, potassium sulphate, magnesium sulphate, calcium carbonate, iron carbonate, and carbonic acid.

The chemists and many prominent physicians including Dr. Alex. H. Marcy and Dr. Thomas F. Cullen pronounced the water as being



Ocean House at Point Pleasant, New Jersey, when Charles W. Sutterly was proprietor.

of undoubted medicinal value. The water was also highly endorsed by prominent men, including Wm. Dougherty of Philadelphia and ex-Governor William A. Newell of New Jersey. Dr. Newell was president of the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture when the spring was discovered. The water was supposed to be a cure for "hay fever or autumnal catarrh" and upon the liver and kidneys its mild, direct action cleansed them of all "deleterious secretions." For its "tonic and alterative effects" the water was "unsurpassed by any spring in the United States."<sup>12</sup>

Mr. Sutterly, anticipating additional patronage for the Ocean House as a result of his mineral spring, had his place enlarged and fitted with modern conveniences. His superintendent was the genial and well-known hosteler, ex-Sheriff Thomas Hulitt. To get to the



"Mana Squan Springs" in 1877 one could take the 2:00 P.M. train from Camden on the Pennsylvania Railroad to Jamesburg. From there one traveled "by Col. Buckelew's admirably managed road, past Freehold and on to Squan, the terminus of the road." Then a ride of twenty minutes in one of Captain Maxson's comfortable Ocean House carriages brought one to Point Pleasant and to the Ocean House. The railroad was supposed to be extended to Point Pleasant by June 1, 1878.<sup>12</sup>

Although Charles W. Sutterly was a resident of Camden, he had a place at 323 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, where one could test the quality of the mineral spring water.<sup>13</sup> He was born in 1823 and died on January 27, 1884, at the age of sixty-one years. At the time of his death he lived at 330 Stevens Street, Camden, New Jersey.<sup>14</sup>

Sutterly, who was prominent in affairs at the State Capitol at Trenton, moved to Camden, New Jersey, where he engaged in the wholesale and retail liquor business in addition to his proprietorship of the summer resort at Point Pleasant, near Manasquan. At one time he was elected to the Camden City Council on the Democratic ticket from the Third Ward. In the Camden section of McElroy's "Philadelphia City Directory" for 1860 he is listed as a clerk, 134 S. Front Street, with his residence at 505 Brown Street. In 1863, 1865 and 1874 he is listed in the "Camden City Directory" as a liquor dealer on Bridge Avenue. In 1874 he was living at 330 Stevens Street and his son, Samuel B. Sutterly, was located as a salesman at 201 Bridge Avenue. Charles W. was married a second time to Miss M. J. Look, on June 1, 1871, daughter of the late Dr. A. Look of Carrsville, Virginia. His will dated December 16, 1872, left to his son Samuel (who had predeceased him) his Texas property and to his wife, Mary J., the residue of his estate, including his "recipes for bitters, cordials and flavors."

Charles W. Sutterly's establishment in Philadelphia was a "New Excelsior Sample Room and Billiard Parlor" at 323 Chestnut Street. There he sold pure liquors, according to his advertisement in the "Camden Democrat" (Camden, New Jersey) of August 23, 1879, as well as "Sutterly's Celebrated Tonic Bitters," a certain cure for dyspepsia. At this time he was also connected with the firm of W. Horter & Co., 18 North Second Street, Philadelphia.

The water from the Manasquan Spring at Point Pleasant, was referred to as unanalyzed in the "Transactions of the American Medical Association" in 1880,<sup>15</sup> and in 1927 Fitch referred to the spring in his book.<sup>16</sup> An advertisement in the "New Jersey Coast Pilot" (Camden, New Jersey) for June 24, 1882, read as follows: "Ocean House. Open all the year. Point Pleasant, New Jersey. Harry Shoemaker, Prop'r. Manasquan Mineral Spring is one of the Attractions of this House."



### *Other Monmouth County Mineral Springs*

The source of "Cochowde's" Brook, mentioned in an account of a highway "from Middletown to the county line, towards Amboy" in 1705-6, was supposed to be "Cocowder" Spring noted among the Indians and first settlers for its medicinal qualities.<sup>17</sup>

Many Mind Springs obtained its name from a group of early settlers who camped near the spring while deciding upon a site for a town. Portland Poynt was laid out in lots near a small creek, within the limits of Portland Poynt, called Many Mind Springs. Atlantic Highlands formed the first section of Portland Poynt. The spring apparently was not designated as a mineral one.<sup>18</sup>

Schenck in 1868 stated that at Eatontown there were one or two springs strongly impregnated with sulphur.<sup>1</sup>

Charleston Springs, close to the eastern border of Millstone Township, Monmouth County, in 1873 embraced a mineral spring, a saw-mill, a distillery, a wintergreen oil factory, a hotel, a store, a school and ten or twelve residences.<sup>19</sup> Today there are no signs of such former activities, but several springs in the vicinity are still active but more or less unnoticed.

### **Morris County**

#### *The Mineral Spring Garden at Piersonville*

In the "Centinel of Freedom" (Newark) for June 8, 1830, Ira C. Pierson advertised the Piersonville Mineral Spring House stating that he had taken "the pleasant Public House," formerly kept by Benjamin Thompson Pierson, two and a half miles above Morristown on the Sussex Turnpike where he had everything to make guests comfortable. The mineral spring, discovered during the spring of 1829, was near the "House" in a beautiful grove of trees. A Dr. Chilton had analyzed the water and found it to be equal to that of Schooley's Mountain. Those who used it in 1830 had found it beneficial to their health. The spring was thirty miles from New York City through Newark, Springfield, Chatham, Bottle Hill and Morristown. The Owego stage stopped at the "House" daily and boarders were accommodated on reasonable terms.

Ira C. Pierson apparently did not keep the place very long, because in the summer of 1831 advertisements in the "Palladium" (Morristown, New Jersey) signed by A. O. Pierson stated that he had lately removed from his late residence and had taken the Piersonville Hotel formerly kept by Ira C. Pierson on the Sussex and Morris turnpike at the foot of the mountain two and a half miles from Morristown. At the hotel special attention was given to teamsters. And anyone in poor health was invited to visit the pleasant mineral spring and partake of its waters. Board by the day or week was reasonable in price. His Mineral Spring Garden, so called, had a "Franklin Flying

Swing" which afforded pleasing exercise to young men and ladies, "who are confined to close study." Such visitors were particularly attended to between four o'clock and half past seven in the evening. Refreshments were sold at the garden every day but Sunday, but they did not include liquor.<sup>1</sup> A. O. Pierson's advertisement of 1831 said that hundreds of persons had visited the Mineral Spring Garden during the summers of 1828, 1829 and 1830, although a previous advertisement reported the discovery of the spring in 1829. Perhaps it was not until 1829 that its mineral constituents were discovered.

The Morris Turnpike Company was incorporated by the New Jersey Legislature on March 9, 1801, in an act "for facilitating communication from Elizabeth-Town in Essex County through Morris-Town and from thence into the County of Sussex." Apparently it was known locally as the Sussex and Morris turnpike. According to Gordon its route after reaching Morristown took it to Newton, over the Minisink Mountain, at Culver's Gap to the Delaware, opposite Milford.<sup>2</sup> The road was completed from Elizabeth to Sussex in 1804 and became the principal highway to the interior. Stages ran to various places, some as far as Owego, in Tioga County, New York. Joseph Warren Greene, Jr., in his article on "Bayonne As A Summer Resort" referred to Piersonville, Schooley's Mountain and Orange Springs as the first inland summer resorts.<sup>3</sup>

According to Ione M. Sonn, Benjamin Thompson Pierson, author and publisher of the Newark (New Jersey) Directories from 1835 to 1862, was born in his ancestral home on the old Sussex Road, two and one-half miles beyond Morristown, on September 21, 1793. The first half of his life was spent there, on a farm, on which in 1829 a spring was found to be chalybeate in character. In spite of the "curative" qualities of the water, the facilities of the Piersonville hotel, and the general popularity of mineral waters at that time, the spring did not prove to be a good business venture, and Pierson in the early 1830s moved to Newark where he went into business as a publisher of Newark directories. He died on June 18, 1862.<sup>4</sup>

Piersonville, by 1915 or thereabouts, had become Glenbrook on Glenbrook Place, one of the old roads to Dover, about one-fourth of a mile south of Speedwell Avenue and the Morris Plains Lackawanna station. In 1915 the spring was located on the property then owned by Arthur Thomson, not far from Glenbrook.

### *The Flanders Mineral Spring*

Gordon described Flanders in 1834 as a "post town of Roxbury Township, Morris County, in the valley of the south branch of the Raritan River, in a fertile country at the east foot of Schooley's Mountain," with a grist- and sawmill, a school, two taverns, two stores, a Methodist church and from twenty to twenty-five dwellings,





the spring and drank copiously, he was told, because of its supposed highly beneficial effect on the kidneys. Mr. Gray was a machinist for William Bartley & Sons, manufacturers of sawmills, water wheels, etc., at Bartley, New Jersey. By avocation he is a clockmaker who has established a considerable reputation during his octogenarian years by repairing and making replacements for grandfather clocks. He remembered a Mr. Vliet who owned the gristmill across the road from the mineral spring and said that the spring was small with a scanty flow. In later years when the spring flow was reduced to a tiny trickle, a two-car garage was erected over it. This garage at present (1960) is owned by Mr. and Mrs. William J. Smith and is adjacent to their home on Flanders Road just up the hill north of State Highway Route No. 206. This spring should not be confused with the one flowing through an iron pipe outlet a half mile up Route 206, where many persons daily fill bottles and jugs with plain spring water.

### *Indian Springs*

William E. Fitch in his book on *Mineral Waters of the United States and American Spas*, published in 1927, mentions the Indian Springs at Rockaway, locating them thirty miles west of Jersey City and thirty-one miles east of Dingman's Ferry, Pennsylvania, in a beautiful mountainous region, access to them being by way of the Lackawanna Railroad to Rockaway Station and then two miles to the springs, also by way of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, and the same distance to the springs. Fitch recorded the flow at the rate of 14,000 gallons daily and stated that physicians highly endorsed the water as safe and potable. There were no accommodations for guests in 1927, but the water had been bottled for twenty-five years and the plant was modern. According to the analyst, T. B. Stillman, the analysis in parts per million, based on hypothetical combinations, was sodium chloride, 8.2; sodium sulphate, 9.2; magnesium bicarbonate, 7.7; calcium bicarbonate, 27.2; ferric and alumina oxide, 0.9; silica, 16.4.<sup>7</sup>

Mr. J. H. Oram, Jr., the present owner and operator of the Indian Spring Water Company, Rockaway, New Jersey, said that Joseph Tuttle early in the 1900s was the first to develop "Indian Rock Spring" on a commercial basis. He bottled the water and shipped much of it by rail. An indication that this spring started its commercial life in 1898 is found in the advertising in New Jersey Bell Telephone Company's Yellow Directory, which bears the statement, "Service Since 1898." The springs are about a mile north of Rockaway near White Meadow Lake, in the middle of a ten-acre plot of ground retained by his family. The previous owners were B. W. and B. K. Stickle. Although not a mineral spring in the usual sense of

the word, it is included in this account because of its mention in Fitch's book. Mr. Oram stated that his deliveries of water from the springs include parts of Passaic, Essex, and Morris counties, the Somerville area and Washington, New Jersey.

An extensive account of Schooley's Mountain Spring, of Morris County with its hotels, etc., is found in Chapters III to VII, inclusive.

#### FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER XI

##### *Middlesex County*

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13. *The West Jersey Press* (Camden, N. J.) June 13, 1877; September 10, 1879.
14. *The Trenton Times*, January 29, 1884.
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17. Edwin Salter and George C. Beekman, *Old Times in Monmouth* (Freehold, 1887).
18. Thomas H. Leonard, *From Indian Trail to Electric Rail* (1923).
19. *Atlas of Monmouth County, New Jersey* (F. W. Beers, Comstock & Cline, New York, 1873), p. 121.

##### *Morris County*

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## CHAPTER XII

### The Mineral Springs of Passaic and Warren Counties

#### Passaic

##### *Blachley's Mineral Spring*

Blachley's Mineral Spring in Acquackanonk Township, Passaic County (formerly Essex County), is mentioned by Gordon in 1834 as being ten miles from New York City and four miles southeast of Paterson. Before 1834 it was much frequented for its chalybeate waters.<sup>1</sup> As Passaic County was formed in 1837 from Essex and other counties, Barber and Howe located Blachley's mineral spring as about one and one-half miles west of the village of "Acquackanonck" in Passaic County.<sup>2</sup> This spring is also shown on Gordon's 1850 Map of New Jersey.

The spring obtained its name from Dr. Ebenezer Blachley, who practiced medicine in Paterson and its vicinity after the Revolution, probably as late as 1791 or 1792, or even later. His father, also a physician with the same name, died in 1805. Ebenezer was one of his five sons who became physicians. He had seven in all. Ebenezer was born in 1760 and served in the Revolutionary War, after which he married Elizabeth Spencer of Elizabethtown and subsequently settled in Paterson. He died in Pennington, New Jersey, in August, 1812. Two of his nine children became physicians, one, Ebenezer S. Blachley, born 1784, practiced in Paterson, and the other, Henry W. Blachley, born 1786, practiced in Pennington.<sup>3</sup>

On Gordon's 1850 Map of New Jersey, Blachley's Mineral Spring is located south of Paterson, in "Acquackanonck" Township between the Morris Canal and the Passaic River. Nelson, in his work on the roads of Passaic County, wrote that the spring "was on the Bloomfield Road about a mile west of the Erie Central station at Passaic."<sup>4</sup> William W. Scott has given an interesting and informative account of this long-forgotten mineral spring. Mineral Spring Brook, named for a spring source, according to him, was known for centuries as a mineral spring. This was located south of Rowland Avenue about 425 feet west of Bloomfield Avenue. On city maps of 1922 the stream was wrongly named McDonald's brook. The spring became known through the activities of Dr. Ebenezer "K." Blachley, who while attending Halmagh Sip, a wealthy patient of "Acquackanonck," had his attention called to a mineral spring in Sip's woods. Sip told Dr. Blachley about the peculiar taste of the water, and from an analysis



it was found to be alkaline and good as a remedy for an acid stomach, dyspepsia, torpidity of the liver and other troubles. It had a restorative power over the digestive and urinary organs, and was also good for what was called malaria at the time. During his illness, Sip read about the success of Saratoga, and when he recovered his health he showed Dr. Blachley the location of the spring in the woods, not far from a stone house in which Sip's grandfather had lived, at which time it was called Spaw-Spring and was known to the Indians who used its waters for illnesses.

Dr. Blachley was impressed and he and Sip agreed to a partnership in a health resort in which, for a time, the old house was to be used. Sip was to have a public road laid close to the spring and the doctor was to erect a building on three sides of a large inner park in the woods about one hundred yards from the spring. The building was



BLACHLEY'S MINERAL SPRING

(From Thomas Gordon's "New Jersey Map of 1850," revised by Robert E. Hornor.)

to cover two acres of land and have apartments of from one to four rooms for family use. According to Scott, Sip was instrumental in having a road laid out February 1, 1803, which is the present (1922) Bloomfield Avenue west of Van Houten Avenue. In the road description, the spring is referred to as follows, "To a heap of stones a little to the east of the Spaw Spring." Nelson reported that on May 26, 1805, "Surveyors met at the house of Thomas Linford and laid a road from the great Notch road opposite Docr. Blachley's Spring road to the road leading from the landing to the Town of Paterson."<sup>4</sup>

Dr. Blachley advertised his new health resort comparing it favorably with European mineral spring resorts and dwelling upon its favorable location, the sunshine, the fragrance of the trees, the ab-

sence of malaria, and other advantages designed to catch the eyes of prospective patients. In accord with their agreement, Sip deeded to the doctor, on October 19, 1809, an undivided one-half of about five acres of land, "together with all minerals, mineral waters, springs and brooks, to said land pertaining."

Even though the resort was well advertised and well known locally, the enterprise was not a success. However, Dr. Blachley's losses were not too great, as he had only remodeled the old, stone house, put a frame addition to it and enclosed the whole with a picket fence. The spring was covered by a summerhouse large enough for a dozen persons. The project was finally abandoned and the spring was never used medicinally after Dr. Blachley gave it up. In 1922 the spring was still bubbling.<sup>5</sup>

## Warren County

### *Mansfield Mineral Springs*

The Mansfield Mineral Springs of Warren County, ten miles from Easton, Pennsylvania, three and a half from New Hampton and three from Asbury, New Jersey, were the subject of an advertisement in August, 1810, in "The True American" of Trenton, New Jersey. Wm. M'Cullough and Henry Dusenbery, during the early part of July of that year, having purchased the mineral springs, advised the public that at the site of the springs they had erected a convenient boarding house, pools, shower baths, stables accommodating fifty horses, a coach and chair house, all being in the tenure of Joseph Barton, who would be attentive to ladies and gentlemen favoring him with their custom. The springs were equal to any in the state. They were located near the Washington Turnpike running from Morristown to Phillipsburg which was being completed. The route was through Chester and German Valley to Schooley's Mountain Springs, then to Pleasant Grove, Penwell and Washington. A stage ran weekly between the two places and extra stages were always available at Easton to accommodate passengers from Philadelphia.<sup>6</sup> The Morris Turnpike was originally chartered in 1806 as the Washington Turnpike.

Apparently M'Cullough and Dusenbery purchased the springs near the Washington Turnpike, but the boarding house or hotel had been built by Lambert Bowman. They expected to divert their way some of the business that was going to the Schooley's Mountain resort, which already had a favorable reputation although limited accommodations. The expected business, however, did not materialize, because four years later, or in February, 1814, Henry Dusenbery was trying to rent the Mansfield Mineral Springs, his boardinghouse, stables, coach house, etc., on his seventeen-acre plot. For terms one had to apply to him at 183 North Third Street, Philadelphia.<sup>7</sup> He had lost his partner, William M'Cullough (McCalla) and it was not until

the season of 1826 that he was successful in gaining another one, named Davis. In 1821 M'Cullough was operating the Willow Grove Mineral Springs. In August of 1826 we find an advertisement in the shape of a news item in the "Belvidere Apollo" entitled "Revival of the Mansfield Mineral Springs." This was when the Morris Canal was being built. In the meantime Schooley's Mountain Springs had been growing in importance and popularity. By 1820 it had two large hotels and it was firmly established as a summer resort, and in no way likely to be disturbed by having Mansfield Springs as a rival. However, Dusenbery and his new partner, Davis, went ahead as described in their advertisement. "The long neglected establishment at the Mansfield Mineral Springs, has lately been revived by the subscribers. The house, shower baths, pools, sheds and stabling have been thoroughly repaired and many improvements have been made, calculated to render a visit to these springs either for health or pleasure, both salutary and agreeable." Their location is described as being on the northern side of the Pohatcong Mountains in Warren County about three-fourths of a mile from the Washington Turnpike. The spring waters were chalybeate and there was a good supply for the pools and shower bath. The view from the springs was beautiful, embracing the Pohatcong Valley, the Morris Canal and in the distance the Durham Hills of Pennsylvania.<sup>8</sup>

The Mansfield Springs, the site of an Indian village, were later called Silver Springs. The land on which the springs were located, including what is now the village of Port Colden, was purchased by John Woolston, of Burlington, New Jersey, from James Harrison, a Proprietor of West Jersey, for twenty-five pounds. Mr. J. H. Nunn, of Hackettstown, president of the Warren County Historical Society and a descendant of John Woolston, has this grant which carries the seal of King George of England. Woolston gave the land to his son, Newbold, who built an eight-room house of stone on the tract near the springs. This house, one of the oldest in Warren County, is still standing. Mansfield Springs was named after the name of the township, which in turn was named in honor of Lord Mansfield of London. The township was formed in 1754, and was in Sussex County until 1824 when Warren County was set off from Sussex.

Apparently a member of the Hunterdon County Dusenberys, Henry married Lidia Sweesey on March 29, 1784. In Kite's Philadelphia Directory of 1814 he is listed as a storekeeper at 183 North Third Street. This is the year that he and M'Cullough advertised their Mansfield Springs. From 1816 to 1822 he is listed as a storekeeper at various locations in Philadelphia, including 51 North Third Street, and his last one, 188 North Second Street and 51 Vine Street, one of them being his store and the other his residence. Henry Dusenbery first came to Warren County around 1810, just as the Washington Turnpike was being completed. He was a speculator.



According to an article in "The Washington Star" (Washington, N. J.) of October 19, 1939, the "Warren Mineral Spring" was a resort seventy years before the Morris & Essex Railroad was built, and although invalids came from near and distant places to take the water cure as far back as the middle of the eighteenth century no attempt was made to develop the resort until 1810 when Lambert Bowman built a pretentious hotel and advertised the spring water as a kidney cure. In addition to running a good hotel, he carried superior brands of liquors. When people departed with improved health they were at a loss to attribute the cure to either the spring water or Bowman's liquor or to both.

The writer in "The Washington Star", reported that two people who were sure of the health-giving quality of Mansfield Spring water were Mrs. Jane Dusenbery and her sister, Miss Susan Anderson. Mrs. Dusenbery was the widow of William Dusenbery who once owned the springs. They were interviewed in the 1890s while living on School Street in Washington, one being eighty-four and the other eighty-two. Both were in good health and attributed their long lives to the fact that they drank the mineral water and took cold shower baths in it consistently. After Bowman died, Samuel Davis had charge of the hotel, but business was not so good and after a few years the business was taken over by William Dusenbery who had inherited the property from his father. In 1835 he closed the hotel and had it moved to Port Colden. He bought a large section of land including the portion a mile from Port Colden on which Mansfield Springs was located. On the Port Colden site he built a hotel, canal store and several residences, in one of which he lived. These buildings are still standing. Because his buildings were located on two roads that crossed, one from north to south and the other from east to west, Dusenbery thought that one day it would be a large city. The old former hotel property still has iron rings in two of the small third-floor bedrooms where slaves would be chained while their master slept on the floor below. The natives of the area did not share Dusenbery's ideas and called the place "Dusenbery's Follies." He then named the village Port Colden for Cadwallader Colden, at that time president of the canal company and a former governor of the New York colony.<sup>9</sup>

Henry Dusenbery and William M'Cullough both were residents of Hunterdon County at one time. On November 19, 1800, Henry was a bondsman for the estate of Joshua Opdycke of Bethlehem Township. On April 23, 1803, he inventoried the estate of Wm. Parke of Lebanon Township. On February 16, 1804, he was one of the executors under the will of Christopher Johnston of Lebanon Township. In November, 1804, William M'Cullough inventoried the estate of Wm. Johnson of Asbury, Mansfield Township, Sussex County. Other Dusenberys such as J. W. and W. C. ran a stage line called Dusenbery's coaches during the summer of 1830 direct from the

Rising Sun Tavern, Trenton, New Jersey, to Schooley's Mountain Springs, three times weekly. Col. William M'Cullough died February 9, 1840, at the age of more than eighty-one years. He lived in Asbury at the time, and during his lifetime he had been a member of the Legislative Council for some years, and for thirty years one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas in Sussex and Warren counties

### *Other Warren County Mineral Springs*

Gordon in 1834 referred to a large chalybeate spring in the Kittatinny Mountain above the Water Gap "which deposits much ferruginous ochre, similar to that of the Paint Spring of Freehold Township in Monmouth County."<sup>10</sup> Cook mentioned this spring in 1868 as being in Pahaquarry Township,<sup>11</sup> and in 1886 it was recorded again as a mineral spring in the 1886 Report of the U. S. Geological Survey. In an 1874 atlas of Warren County, three Paint Springs are marked along a stream flowing into the Delaware River between Shawnee and Depues Islands.<sup>12</sup> Barber and Howe in 1844 recorded "an excellent mineral spring near the northeast line of the township [Franklin, in Warren County] said to have been nearly equal to that of the celebrated Schooley's Mountain, though not much frequented,"<sup>13</sup> and Cook stated in 1868 that it was on Pohatcong Mountain near Broadway Station in Franklin Township, Warren County.<sup>11</sup>

A large spring near Johnsonburg in Frelinghuysen Township, known as the Federal Spring, is said to have been a camping site for General Washington on his travels between Washington and Boston during the Revolutionary War period. According to the "Map of the Travels of George Washington" published by the National Geographic Society in 1931, his route from Hope to Newton would certainly have taken him through Johnsonburg, which is approximately six miles from Hope on the road to Newton. Federal Spring is located in *Beers' Atlas of Warren County, New Jersey*, published in New York in 1874.

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7. *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, February 3, 1814.
8. *Belvidere Apollo*, August 1, 1826.
9. J. Harold Nunn, *The Story of Hackettstown, New Jersey, 1754-1955* (Hackettstown, 1955), and personal correspondence from J. H. Nunn.
10. Thomas F. Gordon, *Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey* (Trenton, 1834), p. 129.
11. George H. Cook, *Geology of the State of New Jersey* (1868), p. 708.
12. F. W. Beers & Company, *County Atlas of Warren, New Jersey* (1874), p. 17, Pahaquarry Township.
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## CHAPTER XIII

### Transportation to the Springs

The rich, aristocratic families of Philadelphia traveled to Schooley's Mountain Springs in great coaches, bearing their coats of arms on the doors, drawn by four horses, frequently accompanied by outriders, part way over Old York Road which was completed in 1765. It took three days to make the trip. If one had to depend upon public transportation, then one rode in a long-bodied stage wagon with eleven other travelers, seated on one of the four backless benches, facing the driver. There were no windows or doors, and one had to climb in over the front wheels to get in the stage, and then over other passengers. The back seats were the most desirable, as the back part of the stage wagon could be used as a back rest. Four supports held up a light roof, and leather curtains suspended from the roof could be rolled up or down as the passengers desired. Horses were changed about every twelve miles. The stage line over the Old York Road, which ran from Philadelphia to New York, was known as the "Swift Sure Stage Line." Its drivers were skillful in handling horses as well as liquor, which many consumed at every tavern stop. Upon a signal from the driver the passengers would often have to lean over to one side in order to keep the vehicle from toppling over. At other times they had to alight and walk until the horses pulled the conveyance up hill or through mud. Stages nearly always started their trips before daybreak. During the winter the ride was cold, and during the summer, heat and dust were prevalent. By 1818 the body of the stagecoach became oval or egg-shaped and was suspended on thick leather straps. This made riding somewhat easier over roads that were frequently full of holes and stones. After reaching Elizabeth-Town the passengers took another stage which carried them to the Springs through Springfield, Morristown and Chester.<sup>1</sup> In 1821 this line of stages ran every other day. The stage left New York at 5:00 A.M. and arrived at Schooley's Mountain around 3:00 P.M. The next day it left for Philadelphia.<sup>2</sup>

Another way to get to the Mountain from Philadelphia was to take the conveyance that started at 5:00 A. M. every Monday and Thursday from Robert Meldrom's tavern at the Sign of the Golden Fleece in Second Street near Callowhill Street, "dine at Josiah Addis's, and arrive at Joseph Adkinsons, Flemming-town the same evening, where private stages are to be had to go to the mineral springs on Schyuler's Mountain, or any other part of the country." This was in 1797.



The fare was 18 shillings, 9 pence. Way passengers paid 5½ cents per mile, and for 164 pounds of baggage the cost was the same as the passenger's fare. Josiah Addis & Co. ran this stage line, which it is thought was not much used as it was not advertised in the newspapers that frequently carried the hotel advertising.<sup>3</sup> Had not the road to Schooley's Mountain been well traveled it is unlikely that the Washington Turnpike, a toll road, would have been chartered in 1806 to extend from Morristown to Phillipsburg. The route from Morristown passed through Chester, German Valley, Schooley's Mountain Springs, Pleasant Grove, Penwell and Washington to Phillipsburg. This turnpike was completed about 1810. Over this hard-surfaced road a line of mail stages ran through Pennsylvania from Easton to Wilkes Barre, Reading, Lancaster and Harrisburg, through picturesque and romantic country. In their advertising the hotel proprietors of Schooley's Mountain usually mentioned the stage accommodations and the stage companies also advertised separately in the newspapers. The Drakes were operating four-horse mail stages between Elizabethtown Point, New Jersey, and Easton, Pennsylvania, in 1818, three times weekly, the trip requiring one day. This was in connection with the steamboat "Atalanta" which left New York at five o'clock in the morning and docked at Elizabethtown Point in time to meet the stage.<sup>4</sup> The "Olive Branch," another steamboat from New York, made stage connections also. In 1821 "Bellmont" Hall advertised the fact that a line of stages ran every other day from Elizabeth Town Point, through "Elizabeth-Town," Springfield, Morristown and Chester to the springs. It left New York at 5:00 A.M. and arrived at Schooley's Mountain at 3:00 P.M. By 1830 there were various stages that ran directly to the springs. These lines originated in New York, Philadelphia, Trenton, and New Brunswick. From the Rising Sun Tavern in Trenton, Dusenbery's coaches, in the summer of 1830, ran direct to the springs three times weekly. Gordon in 1834 mentioned four turnpike roads from the top of Schooley's Mountain, one northward to Sussex, one westward to Easton, another eastward to New York, and a fourth southward toward Trenton.

Railroad communication in 1837 extended as far as Madison, as far as Morristown in 1838, and later as facilities were built, to Dover and Hackettstown, the stage trips then being diminished in length. It was not until 1842 that the trip by way of Elizabethtown had a rail connection. In 1845 the "Morris and Essex Rail Road" advertised its summer train schedule from New York and Newark to Morristown. There were only two trains daily, one in the morning that left Newark at 9:00 A.M., and another at 5:45 P.M. Passengers taking the morning train from Newark would reach Morristown at 10:30 A.M. From there stages for Schooley's Mountain, Washington, Belvidere and Easton met the train daily. Practically the same schedule was in effect in 1849.<sup>5</sup>

In 1849 one could get an express train to Morristown on the Morris and Essex Railroad during July. This left Newark at 10:45 A.M. (upon the arrival of the 6:00 A.M. Philadelphia train) for Morristown and Dover where carriages awaited to convey passengers to the Mountain, arriving there at 5:00 P.M. Passengers taking the 6:00 A.M. train from Camden proceeded without change of car directly through.<sup>6</sup> In 1854 one finds that a daily train left at 10:00 A.M. from Walnut Street Wharf, Philadelphia, via the Camden and Amboy Railroad to Newark and from there by the Morris and Essex Railroad to Hackettstown, which was within three miles of Schooley's Mountain hotels, where carriages and barouches conveyed passengers to the Mountain.<sup>7</sup> In 1854, when the Lackawanna Railroad from Hoboken was completed to Hackettstown, the mountain resort became more accessible. The "shortest, easiest and cheapest way of reaching Schooley's Mountain, a delightful Watering Place" from Philadelphia was to leave Walnut Street Wharf at 7:30 A.M. for Trenton, thence by the Belvidere Delaware Railroad to Phillipsburg, opposite Easton, Pennsylvania, where one arrived at noon, dined and cooled off before taking the New Jersey Central Railroad to New Hampton, from which one traveled by stage to the Mountain, arriving at 6:30 P.M. The one-way fare for this trip was \$3.37½. The ride on the Belvidere Delaware Railroad was remarkably free from dust and the beauty of the Musconetcong Valley on the Central Railroad was "almost unsurpassed."<sup>8</sup>

J. J. Moorman in 1867 gave a somewhat different route for reaching the springs from Philadelphia. One took a train from there to New Brunswick and then went by stage six miles to Bound Brook where one boarded a New Jersey Central Railroad train to White House and then went by stage to the springs.<sup>9</sup> In 1873 Walton recommended the Morris and Essex Railroad from New York to Hackettstown and thence to the springs by stage.<sup>10</sup>

In 1899 the fare from New York City to Hackettstown, New Jersey, on the D. L. and W. railroad, fifty-seven miles away, was \$1.75 for a single ticket and \$2.45 for an excursion ticket that was good until used. A fifty-trip ticket was \$41.25. This could be used by a family, their visitors and servants. The same fares prevailed from New York to German Valley on the Central Railroad of New Jersey. From Philadelphia by way of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway to German Valley via Bound Brook, the rates were, single fare, \$2.71, excursion, good until used, \$4.10, fifty-trip ticket for family and friends, \$92.70. At both Hackettstown and German Valley (Long Valley) stages were available for the trip to Schooley's Mountain. Mr. N. Hyde in 1877 had two stages and a baggage wagon on hand at the arrival of all New Jersey Central Railroad trains at German Valley.<sup>11</sup>

Several mineral springs had the added glamour and attraction of being accessible by water routes on regularly scheduled and advertised steamboat lines. Such trips were probably more pleasurable. Certainly they were not accompanied by bumpy roads, dust, and mud. Bath at Bristol, Pennsylvania, was served by Delaware River steamers from Philadelphia. The Mineral Spring Hotel at Lumberton, New Jersey, was the upstream terminus for the Rancocas Steamboat line. Yellow Springs in Pennsylvania could be reached part way by packet boat from Fairmount Dam to Norristown.

Other springs were reached by short stage trips. The Mansfield Mineral Springs of Warren County, New Jersey, were near the Washington Turnpike which extended from Morristown to Easton. In 1810 the road was nearing completion, but there was only one trip weekly. To reach the Colestown Mineral Spring from Philadelphia in 1812, one took a Moorestown stage from the Camden ferries to Haddonfield, and requested a deviation of route to the spring. Sloan's Mineral Spring of Camden County (formerly Gloucester County) was reached in 1814 by a  $3\frac{1}{4}$ -mile trip from Cooper's Ferry. There were three trips daily. In 1821 to get to Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, one took a Swiftsure New York Stage at M'Calla's Inn, North Fourth Street, Philadelphia, at 8:00 A.M. On its return trip, one could get back to Philadelphia early the next day. The Kalium Spring at Collingswood, New Jersey, was reached on the Camden and Atlantic Railroad in 1886, and by later trolley lines.

#### FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER XIII

1. Emogene Van Sickle, *The Old York Road and its Stage Coach Days* (Flemington, N. J., 1936).
2. *The True American*, July 7, 1821.
3. *Porcupine's Gazette* (Philadelphia), August 7, 1797.
4. Joseph Warren Greene, Jr., "Schooley's Mountain Springs," *Proceedings New Jersey Historical Society*, 51(2): 182, 1933.
5. *Newark Daily Advertiser*, July 1, 1845; April 2, 1849.
6. *Public Ledger and Transcript* (Philadelphia), July 25, 1849.
7. *Cummings' Evening Bulletin* (Philadelphia), July 5, 1854.
8. *Ibid.*, August 2, 1854.
9. J. J. Moorman, *The Mineral Waters of the United States and Canada* (Baltimore, 1867).
10. George E. Walton, *The Mineral Springs of the United States and Canada* (New York, 1873).
11. *True Democratic Banner* (Morristown, N. J.), September 6, 1877.



## CHAPTER XIV

### The Mineral Springs of Philadelphia and Vicinity

#### Philadelphia

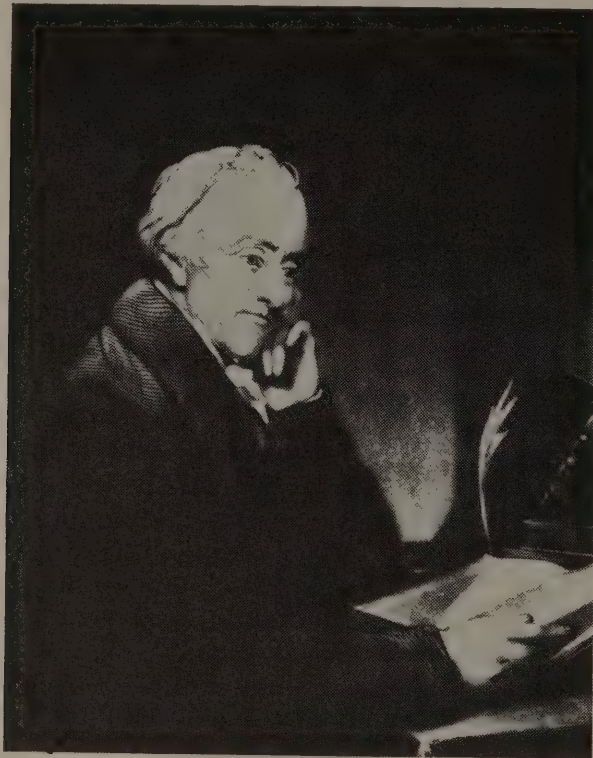
Philadelphia was founded and growing in size about the same time that numerous spas in England, such as Bristol, Sadlers Wells, Tunbridge Wells, Harrogate, Bath, etc., were becoming more popular and important. During the early years of the 1700s, wealthy Quakers began to visit mineral springs, either for health or pleasure or both. Such springs were handier to visit than the seashore. Gabriel Thomas, in his London book of 1698, speaking of Philadelphia, said, "Not two miles from the Metropolis are also Purging Mineral Waters, that pass both by Siege [seat] and Urine, all out as good as Epsom."<sup>1</sup> And in an old geography book printed in London in 1732, under "Pensilvania Rarities," it is stated that, "In several Parts of Pensilvania are Springs of good mineral Waters particularly those about two miles from Philadelphia, which, for Operation are accounted much the same as with our purging Waters at Barnet."<sup>2</sup> One of these not two miles from Philadelphia was on a farm owned by Dr. John Kearsley, who saw that its medicinal properties received recognition. This bath spring constituted the resort known as "Bath-town," a speculation that never got beyond a paper stage, and which was on the northern side of Cohocksink Creek, later Pegg's Run, the course of which finally became Willow Street.<sup>3</sup> Bath Town, which attracted people who could not afford to go to Bristol, was referred to in 1765 more fully in a newspaper advertisement signed by John White, who, living near the "New Bath," proposed, with the help of his wife to "accomodate Ladies and Gentlemen with Breakfasting, on the best of Tea, Coffee or Chocolate, with plenty of Good Cream, &c. which articles may also be had in the Afternoon." He also hoped to give satisfaction to any persons whose health required them to get into the bath, by supplying them with brushes and towels. As order and decency were necessary in such an undertaking, he hoped to be able to conduct everything as the founder originally intended. He also sold season tickets for the bath, one of them being in the files of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.<sup>4</sup>

White had a competitor the next year, as William Johnson opened a tearoom across the street which developed a reputation for cheese-cakes. White retaliated, or thought he did, by installing an "engine" which would end the complaints that his bath water was changed only

infrequently. He also claimed to have improved a "fountain" nearby for mineral drinking water. Season tickets cost one pistole. These were on sale at White's place or from several physicians. Around 1770 White apparently failed financially. However, "The Cold Baths in Bath Town" reopened under the management of William Drewett Smith who sold season tickets at his "Medicinal Store."<sup>5</sup>

A few years later another mineral water bath was recorded on the banks of the Schuylkill River. This was known as "Wigwam Baths" the proprietor being George Savell, who in May, 1788, advised his former patrons, both ladies and gentlemen, that he then had the baths in complete order. The Wigwam water was strongly chalybeate and could be drunk "with singular advantage in a variety of diseases." For cold and shower baths, one paid one shilling each time, or five shillings per week, two dollars per month and four dollars per season. For a hot bath, one had to give an advance notice of two days. Food was sold on reasonable terms. As for transportation, Mr. Buckingham, as soon as four persons subscribed for one month, would attend them with his coach and agree to pick them up at their own homes, deliver them to Wigwam Baths and return them to Sixth and Market streets for the modest price of four dollars per month.<sup>6</sup>

In 1773 a mineral well, twenty-six feet deep, discovered at the corner of Sixth and Chestnut streets excited much comment and in-



BENJAMIN RUSH

(From *The Lives of Eminent Philadelphians*, by  
Henry Simpson.)

terest in Philadelphia. The well was on a vacant lot owned by John Lawrence just opposite the State House. The druggist of the Hospital and Medical School, James Hutchinson, under the direction of a faculty led by Dr. Benjamin Rush, performed some twenty-one experiments with the water and found that, with the exception of a "slight foetid smell," it exceeded "any spring in the province in the strength of its iron content." Mr. Lawrence hired an "indigent" person to preside over the well and to give the water free to the poor, and for a trifling sum to others. This resulted in a rush of citizens to the well.<sup>7</sup>

Sarah Eve, the consumptive fiancé of Dr. Rush, recorded in her "Journal" that on the afternoon of May 27, 1773, she, her mother, Mrs. Rush and Betsy Rush, paid a visit to Mrs. and Miss Harper. After tea, Benjamin Rush, Miss Harper and Miss Eve took a walk and curiosity led them to the Mineral Point and persuaded them to taste the water. Miss Eve found it "excessively disagreeable" and wrote that "at present it is drunk for almost every disorder, and is looked upon as an universal nostrum."<sup>8</sup> Elizabeth Drinker, on at least four different occasions in 1773, along with Molly Foulk, Betty Jarvis and other neighbors, arose early and drank at the pump between six and seven o'clock in the morning and thought it made them feel better.<sup>9</sup> In its issue of May 19, 1773, "The Pennsylvania Gazette" among other references to the water mentioned that it already had proved to be "of great service to several persons afflicted with disorders, in which waters of this Quality have generally been useful."

Dr. Benjamin Rush in June, 1773, read a paper before the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia entitled "Experiments and Observations on the Mineral Waters of Philadelphia, Abington and Bristol." In this paper he reported upon the results obtained by experiments and observations. Water analysis as we know it was unknown during Dr. Rush's time, and "experiments and observations" consisted in mixing the mineral water with various substances such as tincture of galls, syrup of violets, soap, spirits of wine, lime water, sugar of lead, etc., and observing the change in color, taste, or precipitation. He found that the three waters contained iron but he was at a loss to account for the peculiar odor of the Philadelphia water. This was ascribed by some to the presence of sulphur, but Dr. Rush could not find a trace of this element. He then mentioned the diseases for which such mineral waters were proper to use. These included hysteria, palsy, epilepsy, certain stages of the gout, old obstinate diarrhœa, want of appetite, colics, obstructions of the liver and spleen, chronic rheumatism, piles, etc., depending in various cases upon the age and sex of the patient and upon the presence of certain other symptoms. He also noted that in certain diseases the use of such waters is improper, and concluded with advice on the amount of mineral water to be drunk and at what times, and warned "that min-



eral waters, like most of our medicines, are only substitutes for temperance and exercise in chronic diseases. An angel must descend from heaven, and trouble these chalybeate pools, before we can expect any extraordinary effects from their use alone.”<sup>10</sup>

As for the healthful chalybeate waters at Sixth and Chestnut streets, lauded by the press, endorsed by the famous Dr. Rush, consumed alike by the wealthy and poor, and found helpful by various invalids, the well, owing to its popularity, was exhausted and upon investigation it was discovered that it communicated with a neighboring privy which gave the sulphurlike smell to the water and which accounted in part for the sediment. In 1773 Francis Alison, who owned a copy of Rush’s pamphlet, wrote on the margin, “The water lost its virtue within a few months after investigation owing to the contents of a neighboring necessary. The well being exhausted on account of the quantity drunk it was found the well communicated with the necessary which gave the smell and sediment.”<sup>11</sup> Francis Alison was Vice Provost of the College.

The exact location of a mineral spring in the environs of Philadelphia around 1740 has eluded us. This is the one at “Spring Garden” to which Dr. Thomas Bond is alleged to have encouraged his patients to picnic and to take the chalybeate waters which he admired so much.<sup>12</sup>

As late as 1882 Joel Cook wrote about going over the bridge at Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, “and in a long Park [Fairmount] road past the ‘Mineral Spring,’ whose water is mildly suggestive of rusty nails and disused tomato-cans, but still is better-tasted, if not so famous, as the waters of Saratoga or Baden.”<sup>13</sup>

### *Harrowgate Gardens*

A popular and easily reached mineral spring for Philadelphians during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries was the chalybeate spring at Harrowgate, near Frankford, then four miles from Philadelphia. It was said to have first been discovered by George Esterly in July, 1784. The spring, somewhat west of Frankford Borough, was reached by the road from Kensington to Frankford, later known as the Frankford and Kensington Plank Road. Esterly named the spring after Harrogate, the famous English spa.<sup>1</sup>

In his endeavors to promote the health of his fellow citizens, George Esterly was aided by Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia, who in his desire to be immediately helpful could not wait for the chemical analysis of the Harrowgate water, but extracted from his work on the mineral waters of Philadelphia, Abington and Bristol, published in 1773, enough material to fill ten pages extolling the use of Harrowgate water. This pamphlet, published at Philadelphia in 1786, is entitled, “Directions for the Use of the Mineral Water and Cold Bath at

Harrowgate near Philadelphia.” Without an analysis as such, Dr. Rush described the Harrowgate water as very light, containing a small quantity of iron with a large quantity of air, lately called “hepatic air,” from which its offensive smell and taste were derived. The “hepatic air” was hydrogen sulphide. This water when used internally was “gently stimulating and tonic.” It promoted “the urinary secretion, and perspiration, and sometimes gently opened the bowels.” Dr. Rush then listed the diseases for which the mineral water was proper to use, those for which it was improper to use, and the manner of using the water. There are also directions for the use of the cold bath,<sup>2</sup> of which Dr. Rush wrote in part, “The excess and defect of that evacuation which is connected with the health of the female constitution, have both been relieved by the cold bath. It not only cures these diseases, but frequently removes barrenness, and prevents abortion. Its agreeable effects upon female beauty would furnish materials for many pages.”

George Esterly lost no time in getting Dr. Rush’s remarks before the public. In his 1786 advertising he claimed that his spring waters had been examined by Dr. Rush and Dr. Moyes. In addition to hepatic air, it contained a small amount of iron and resembled in composition and medicinal properties the famous Harrogate water of England. This referred to the first of the three springs on his property. The second spring contained a quantity of fixed air (carbon dioxide) and a small quantity of iron and calcareous earth. The third spring was a common chalybeate one resembling that of Bristol, Pennsylvania. He mentioned two shower baths, two dressing rooms and a bath for plunging and swimming. Adjoining the springs was a dwelling house, and for the convenience of invalids there was a light “Stage-Waggon” that set off every morning except Sunday, at six o’clock after June 1 until October 1 from the sign of the “Green-Tree” in Race Street, Philadelphia. Esterly charged for the use of the baths \$5.00 per season, \$2.00 for one month, 5 shillings for a week and 1 shilling for each time the baths were used less than a week. No charge was made to those who only drank the waters. For a single, one-way trip on the stage the cost was 2 shillings, 6 pence.<sup>3</sup>

Elizabeth Drinker, in her “Journal,” made the following entry for June 18, 1785, “Nancy and myself in ye Chaise, H. D. [Henry Drinker, her husband] on Horseback, took a ride a little after 5 this morning to ye lately discovered mineral Springs near Frankford—came home to breakfast.” This of course was Esterly’s place. Henry Drinker jointly with Abel James, his Philadelphia shipping and importing business partner, on March 16, 1773, bought Charles Read’s controlling “half” interest in the Atsion (New Jersey) Iron Works.

In the May 8, 1790, issue of “The Pennsylvania Packet,” George Esterly had a long advertisement about the medicinal waters for drinking and bathing at Harrowgate, where there were three different

kinds of waters, one sulphurous containing hepatic air and a small amount of iron, one with fixed air, a small amount of iron and calcareous earth, and one which was common chalybeate water resembling Bristol water. For the use of the baths during the season, the price was four dollars, for a month two dollars, for a week, five shillings, for less than a week, one shilling. A season ticket for drinking the waters cost two dollars. At the Harowgate Inn adjoining the springs one could get meals and lodging in the "genteelest" manner. On the thirteenth of May, concerts, vocal and instrumental music "with illumination" were to begin at 4:00 P.M. Harrowgate was decorated with summerhouses, arbors, walks and seats. The food and liquors were of the best. George Esterly had a "Light-Carriage" which left Mr. Hay's tavern in Race Street, Philadelphia, at three o'clock in the afternoon for carrying passengers to Harrowgate and back again for two shillings each.

In 1789 Esterly advertised a "Concert of Vocal and Instrumental Music with an Illumination in imitation of the European Vauxhall."<sup>4</sup> In his advertising of August 8, 20, and 30, 1791, "Dunlap's American Daily Advertiser" (Philadelphia) carried nothing about the benefits of mineral water, but plenty about the entertainments, the bar in one of the rooms in the bath house, and the bars at each end of the garden. Esterly made sure that thirsty customers did not have too far to walk in search of refreshment. On August 9 a concert of vocal and instrumental music was given starting at four o'clock in the afternoon. At 7:00 P.M. the "Garden" was illuminated and Mr. and Mrs. Kenna sang. Between the parts of the concert a "comic picture pantomine exhibition" was displayed, with a transparent scene called, "Les Grandes, Ombres Italian," involving "shades" exhibiting a grotesque scene of the "Merry Coblers, Barbers, Landlady, &c. &c. &c." Mr. Durang in the character of Harlequin tumbled on the rope. The "shades" began at 8:00 P.M., and the rope tumbling thirty minutes later. Tickets were only eleven pence. For August 23, somewhat the same type of entertainment was scheduled, but there were enough changes to attract the customers back again. There was to be a transparent scene called "Les Petite Ombres Chinoise," or "Chinese Shades" in which were to be displayed a "Water Piece with Orion and his Lyre." This was to be followed by "Neptune and Amphitrite in their Chariot attended by a Mermaid," and also by an Italian hornpipe by Mr. Durang. On August 30, the show was to be the same as that of August 23, with Mr. Durang tumbling on the slack rope in various comic attitudes.

In the summer of 1792 "Monsieur Rolong," a famous harpist, appeared there. Messrs. Phill, Schulz, Tremner, Roth, Christhif, Spangerberg, etc., assisted in an instrumental concert. Transparencies were exhibited, illuminated in Chinese style. On July 4, 1793, Kenna, of the Northern Liberty Theatre, gave a grand concert at



Harrowgate.<sup>1</sup> In 1795 his place was still famous for its concerts and exhibitions. By 1808, George Esterly wanted to retire "from the fatigues of public life" and so he offered for sale his mineral springs so long celebrated for their medicinal virtues, bath houses, pleasure gardens, bowling green and house of entertainment known as Harrowgate. There were six acres under cultivation, well stocked with choice fruit trees and not to be equaled for beauty or elegance. The houses were in good order for the entertainment of company, and twenty-two acres of land were in excellent condition.<sup>5</sup> Apparently he was not successful in finding a buyer. In 1815 he was making a desperate effort to continue what was apparently a declining business, according to the following announcement.

#### HARROWGATE GARDEN

GEORGE ESTERLY,

ANXIOUS to inform his friends and the public in general that he is using every exertion in his power, to exhibit that once beautiful Garden called HARROWGATE in all the splendor it was a few years ago, and with some additional improvements, hopes to excite the curiosity of the Florist and Botanist, and frame it so as to amuse and entertain every class of citizens, by the manner in which he has laid it out. The Variegated Flowers he hopes will once more entertain his friends and the public as it formerly did, and with the Liquors, Wines, &c., that he has now laid in, he is convinced that if proved will give general satisfaction. Dinners, Relishes, Fish, Deserts, Ice Creams, served up in the neatest manner and shortest notice. The Bath Houses are in good repair, the Mineral Waters are well known for their medical virtues.

BOARDERS can be comfortably and well entertained.

N. B. Parties can be entertained on the 4th of July, seasonable application being made.<sup>6</sup>

The inevitable could not be forestalled. Harrowgate Gardens were advertised to be sold by John Humes, apparently the auctioneer of J. & W. Lippincott, on November 4, 1817, at seven o'clock in the evening at the Merchants' Coffee House in Philadelphia. It was described as elegant, about three miles from the city (which had grown closer to it), containing twelve acres of land, of which six were laid out in a garden. The large walk was about 600 feet long and 16 feet wide, "handsomely boxed and graveled, having an Orchestra in the centre." The other walks were "serpentine and terrace." There was a stream, and an orchard and garden, but no mention was made of the mineral springs. The improvements consisted of a two-story stone house and kitchen, a large frame two-story house, an ice house with a billiard room over it, barn, stables, sheds, etc.<sup>7</sup> In 1923 Shelton found that of this famous amusement garden, so popular in its day with the gentry of Philadelphia, nothing remained but "a trickling rivulet, amidst ashes and débris."

### *Marple Springs*

About ten or twelve miles from Philadelphia, in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, Isaac Burns owned a farm at the extreme tip of Marple Township. This farm contained a mineral spring of chalybeate properties, and in order to benefit mankind, including himself, Isaac built a bath house and made other improvements in order to supply the needs of persons who desired to improve their health.<sup>1</sup> However, for the lack of necessary entertainment, people were prevented from using the waters. So he petitioned the Court of Quarter Sessions for the April term of 1811 for a license to keep a house of public entertainment on his farm. Twenty-two subscribers recommended Isaac as a sober and orderly person and asked that his petition be granted. In addition the subscribers certified that they had bathed and drank the waters of the spring and had been greatly relieved and in many instances entirely cured of their respective disorders. Samuel Lewis had been relieved of a rheumatic pain in an arm and inflammation in one of his eyes. John Hortor was relieved of eye inflammation, and George Lewis of a sick stomach. The court, however, was not impressed and the petition was rejected. When it was submitted the following year it received the same treatment. And six years later his son, William Burns, was also refused a license.<sup>2</sup> This information from the records of the Quarter Sessions of Delaware County does not check with the advertising of Isaac Burns in the "United States Gazette" of July 10, 1811, in which he claims that the waters of his spring have been inspected by a number of gentlemen, both of the city and country and found "to be equal if not superior in their medical and healing qualities to any of the kind ever discovered in America, or perhaps in the world," and that "liquors of the best kind will be provided." Perhaps Mr. Burns' advertising of July 10, 1811, was placed in anticipation of receiving a liquor license, because in "Freeman's Journal and Philadelphia Mercantile Advertiser" of June 30, 1813, where his "Mineral Chalybeate Springs," twelve miles from Philadelphia and half a mile north of the road leading to West Chester, his bath, summerhouses and boarding accommodations are mentioned there is not a word about any liquors being provided.

### *The Abington and Willow Grove Springs*

On the road from Philadelphia to New York was the much frequented Abington Spring, as it was called. First owned by Thomas Hallowell in 1768, it was fourteen miles from Philadelphia and situated at "Moreland" near the junction of York and Horsham roads. Hallowell in the "Pennsylvania Chronicle" of April 18, 1768, advertised his spring of "Mineral Spaw Water" as highly serviceable to numbers, in several distempers such as consumptions, coughs, weakness of appetite and digestion and several obstinate disorders of the

skin and in removing obstructions of the liver, spleen and other parts contained in the belly, which often produces the piles, jaundice, dropsy, and an infinite number of other complaints." In the same advertisement he offered to sell twenty acres of land convenient to the spring.

In 1772 Thomas French built a bath there and advertised it in the Philadelphia newspapers. He offered comfortable lodgings and the waters were approved by some of the best contemporary physicians as superior to any within thirty miles of the city.<sup>1</sup> Nicholas Moore owned the land about the spring in 1684. He was a London physician and his heirs sold it to Nicholas Waln and Thomas Shute.

### WILLOW GROVE MINERAL SPRINGS.

**T**HE public are respectfully informed, that this noted establishment has lately been fitted up in a neat and suitable manner for the reception of transient visitors and weekly, or monthly Boarders, during the warm season. Their table will be furnished with the best provisions and variety which the season affords, with a choice selection of the best of Liquors. The New York and Easton lines of Stages passes this place, that may furnish letters and newspapers from the city to persons of business daily, and affording great convenience to persons wishing to visit this place. The strictest attention will be given to render this healthy and comfortable situation, pleasing to all those who may favor it with their friendly patronage. All charges for accommodation will be made reasonable by

**Wm. M'Calla & Son.**

june 23

eo2w

#### WILLOW GROVE MINERAL SPRINGS

(From "Poulson's American Daily Advertiser," Philadelphia, Pa., of July 4, 1821.)

Around 1719 James Jacob Dubree built a hotel, the Sign of the Wagon, which lasted by that name through the Revolution, when it was run by Joseph Butler. In 1808 the original tavern was replaced by the Mineral Springs Hotel. Five stage lines stopped there to change horses, and the hotel prospered for a long time.<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Benjamin Rush, in his 1773 pamphlet "Experiments and Observations on the Mineral Waters of Philadelphia, Abington and



Bristol," reported that it contained iron. He referred to it as "Abington Water" from a plantation belonging to Mr. William French at a situation about twelve miles to the north of Philadelphia. Abington was south of Willow Grove. An advertisement of August 10, 1774, under the heading "Abington Mineral Water" refers to its use in chronic diseases and of the good accommodations to be had at the house of William French and other large houses in the neighborhood of the springs. William French had for distribution Dr. Rush's findings of 1773.<sup>3</sup>

On June 27, 1772, Elizabeth Drinker recorded in her "Journal," "About 10 o'clock H. D. [Henry Drinker, her husband] and self began a journey in ye Chaise. We stopped a little time at Fair-Hill, at Wm. Hills', when Rachel Drinker and her son Henry joined us in their Chaise, and then proceeded on the Old York road until we came to Moses Sheppards, about 11 miles from Philada, where we stopped and visited the Mineral waters opposite his house, where one French has contrived a Bath. The water tastes pretty strong."<sup>4</sup> According to Shelton<sup>2</sup> the name Willow Grove goes back to 1792 when the place was mapped by Reading Powell. Three more bad tasting springs were located there. James Mease in his *Picture of Philadelphia*, published in 1811, alludes to two springs, "the Chalybeate water at Abington" and another, a fine spring, known as the Willow Grove Springs owned by George Rex. "At Rex's tavern, you can be well entertained; here is also a fine spring, highly impregnated with iron, and a spacious bath-house, supplied with mineral water, for the accommodation of visitors." About that time it began to have a reputation as a summer resort which continued for many years.

George Rex, a blacksmith from Germantown, purchased a house and thirty-nine acres in 1784 but did not get a tavern license until 1803. Then he used the mineral springs to good advantage in the advertising of his Mineral Springs Inn. After the death of George Rex the hotel passed to his nephew of the same name, who continued to operate it until he died in 1863.<sup>5</sup> There were two other early taverns at Willow Grove. One was the Red Lion, which went back to 1762. This was on the opposite side of York Road. At the lower end of the village on York Road there was a third tavern called the Fountain House, which had a reported beginning in 1717, although it is not recorded in old records, as are the other two.

In 1811 George Rex, under the heading "Willow Grove Mineral Springs Fourteen miles from the City on the Old York Road" advertised in a Philadelphia newspaper that improvements lately made would enable him to accommodate more lodgers. The shower and plunging baths were in order and free to lodgers and visitors. Attempts to injure the mineral spring proved abortive. It was lately cleaned and the water after analysis was found to contain "vitriolated

iron," the presence of which is known "by the ochre which it deposits, its taste, the black color which it strikes with astringents and the blue color produced by phlogisticated alkali." A cheap way of visiting the "Grove" was by the Swiftsure New York Stage which left M'Calla's Inn, N. Fourth Street, Philadelphia, at eight o'clock every morning.<sup>6</sup>

In July, 1821, the Willow Grove Mineral Springs were advertised by Wm. M'Calla & Son as having been fitted up in a neat and suitable manner for the reception of transient visitors and weekly or monthly boarders. The best provisions would be furnished and there would be a choice selection of liquors. The New York and Easton stage lines passed the door. Apparently M'Calla & Son were managing the place.<sup>7</sup> Constantine Samuel Rafinesque, noted naturalist, visited the "Willowgrove" mineral waters in 1832 where he "herborized" for several days. In 1851, George Rex, proprietor of the Springs, mentioned great improvements that he had made by the addition of a large building for boarders. This was to be opened July 1. The "salubrity and beauty of the place and the quality of the water, render Willow Grove one of the most desirable places of resort in Pennsylvania."<sup>8</sup>

After nephew George Rex had died, two years later, or in 1865, the hotel was bought by John Berrell. By that time stage coach travel was disappearing and railroads were expanding. After Berrell had been running the Mineral Springs Hotel for several years he decided to buy the Red Lion tavern and close it so that his hotel would get more business. In 1876 the Red Lion passed into his hands for \$9,500. After the great amusement park was opened by the trolley company at Willow Grove, the Mineral Springs Hotel again did a good business, under the various Ehrenpfort owners. Charles Ehrenpfort in 1890 bought the property for \$17,900 from John J. Sonnebun and sold it for \$150,000, after improvements and Willow Grove's prestige made it desirable, to Frederick Ehrenpfort, who operated it until his son, Frederick W., took over. In 1926 they sold it for a price in the vicinity of \$200,000. The thirty acres around the hotel had become a picnic place when the Ehrenpforts took over, and the mineral springs attracted little or no attention and no one drank the waters.<sup>9</sup> Most of the ground where Willow Grove Park was built was a swamp called Round Meadow. It was well known to botanists for its variety of plants. The mineral springs were north of the swamp.

Some years ago Edward W. Hocker wrote in the "Norristown Times Herald" about fraud allegations made against a real estate promoter of Philadelphia who had issued proposals for the building of a large hotel and sanatorium at Roslyn in Abington Township where "ailing multitudes" could be cured by the water from the Anzac Springs, which were in the same neighborhood with the Willow Grove Springs.

## FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER XIV

### Philadelphia

1. Gabriel Thomas, *An Historical and Geographical Account of the Province and Country of Pensilvania and of West-New-Jersey in America* (London, 1698).
2. Pat Gordon, *Geography Anatomized, or The Geographical Grammar* (London, 1732).
3. F. H. Shelton, "Springs and Spas of Old-Time Philadelphians," *Pa. Mag. Hist. & Biog.*, XLVII (3): 196-237, 1923.
4. *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, August 22, 1765.
5. *Ibid.*, August 22, 1765; May 15, June 15, 1766; *Evening Post*, April 1, 1775; *Pennsylvania Packet*, April 3, 1775; *Pennsylvania Magazine* iv, 179.
6. *The Pennsylvania Packet and Daily Advertiser*, May 28, 1788.
7. Carl Bridenbaugh, "Baths and Watering Places of Colonial America," *William and Mary Quarterly*, April, 1946, pp. 151-181.
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9. Henry D. Biddle, ed. *Extracts From the Journal of Elizabeth Drinker From 1759 to 1807, A. D.* (Philadelphia, 1889).
10. Benjamin Rush, *Experiments and Observations on the Mineral Waters of Philadelphia, Abington and Bristol* (Philadelphia, 1773).
11. Cecil K. Drinker, *Not So Long Ago, a Chronicle of Medicine and Doctors in Colonial Philadelphia* (New York, 1937).
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13. Joel Cook, *Brief Summer Rambles Near Philadelphia* (Philadelphia, 1882), p. 12.

### Harrowgate Gardens

1. F. H. Shelton, "Springs and Spas of Old-Time Philadelphians," *Pa. Mag. Hist. & Biog.* XLVII, 1923, pp. 214-17.
2. Benjamin Rush, *Directions for the Use of the Mineral Water and Cold Bath, at Harrowgate, near Philadelphia* (Philadelphia, 1786).
3. *The Pennsylvania Packet and Daily Advertiser* (Philadelphia), May 27, 1786.
4. *Ibid.*, July 9, 1789.
5. *Relfs Philadelphia Gazette and Daily Advertiser*, June 18, 1808.
6. *General Aurora Advertiser* (Philadelphia), June 12, 1815.
7. *American Centinal and Mercantile Advertiser* (Philadelphia), October 30, 1817.

### Marple Springs

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2. Henry Graham Ashmead, *History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania*, p. 584.

### Abington and Willow Grove

1. Carl Bridenbaugh, "Baths and Watering Places of Colonial America," *William and Mary Quarterly*, April, 1946, p. 174.
2. F. H. Shelton, "Springs and Spas of Old-Time Philadelphians," *Pa. Mag. Hist. & Biog.*, XLVII, 1923, p. 222.
3. *Pennsylvania Gazette*, August 10, 1774.
4. Henry D. Biddle, ed., *Extracts from the Journal of Elizabeth Drinker, 1759-1807* (Philadelphia, 1889).
5. Theodore W. Bean, ed., *History of Montgomery County, Pa.* (Philadelphia, 1884).
6. *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, July 22, 1811.
7. *Ibid.*, July 4, 1821.
8. *Public Ledger and Daily Transcript* (Philadelphia), June 19, 1851.
9. Edward W. Hocker, *Norristown (Pa.) Times Herald*, January 3, 1938.



## CHAPTER XV

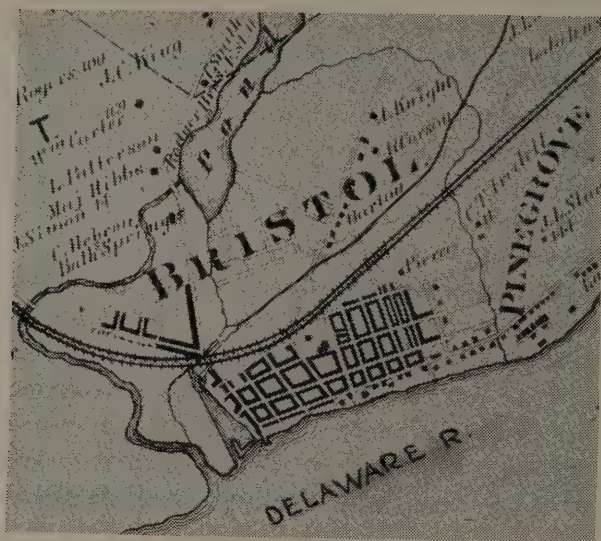
### The Mineral Springs of Bucks County, Pennsylvania

#### The Bristol Chalybeate Baths

Although the springs of Bristol were known to the settlers as early as 1700, and their chalybeate character referred to as "nasty," it was not until about twenty years later that they were used medicinally for drinking and bathing. Twenty miles northeast of Philadelphia, the two springs were located in a low piece of ground about a half mile from the town, one in a northwest direction and the other at the west end of the village. Known as the "Bath Springs Near Bristol," their waters were used frequently by the residents of Philadelphia. Kalm visited the springs in 1747 and his remarks upon "iron waters" indicate the esteem in which such liquids were held, people believing at the time that they were good for the fever and ague.<sup>1</sup> The first baths were built in 1760, and visitors by 1769 were so abundant that according to the Borough Council record of the meeting of August 7, 1769, persons having no legitimate business at the Bath were to be arrested. "The Bristol Bath and Wells have at a very considerable expense been put in order for the reception of the sick and diseased, and numbers of persons by using the same have received benefit therefrom, but it being represented to the burgesses and council that the good purposes intended thereby, from the number of idle and disorderly persons who constantly resort there, especially on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, may in a great measure defeat the good purposes intended thereby, we therefore, in order to put a stop to the same, do order and ordain, that every person (not a housekeeper, or such who are sent by their parents, masters or mistresses) about or within the limits of the said Bath, shall by either of the constables or Bath keeper, for the time being, be immediately taken into custody, unless they disperse at the request of either of the constables or Bath keeper."

The popularity of Bath Springs and their growth in importance to the top of the list of colonial spas were due mainly to the promotional activities of Dr. John A. De Normandie. Of course the springs were genuinely chalybeate and Philadelphia was a close and settled community, but the approval of a noted and respected physician brought their medicinal value to the attention of the public. Dr. De Normandie was the son of John A. De Normandie, a merchant of Bristol, who in 1747 bought from Charles Read a tract of twenty-one

acres in Northampton Township, Burlington County, New Jersey. About the same time, De Normandie bought land in Springfield Township and invested in an iron works at Mount Holly, New Jersey. In 1749 his son, Dr. John A. De Normandie (1713-1803) acquired an interest in the New Jersey enterprise. In 1768, while Dr. De Normandie was a member of the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia, he addressed two letters from Bristol to Dr. Thomas Bond, one of the vice presidents of the Society. One, dated September 10, 1768, dealt with the results of his analyses of the chalybeate waters of Bristol, and the other, dated October 6, 1769, gave the results of additional experiments and of ten case histories of patients whom he had treated at Bristol. He found that the Bristol waters contained the same "properties" as those of European spas and agreed in the effects that followed upon drinking them. The Philosophical Society was so impressed by the letters that they were printed in the "Pennsylvania



Map showing Bath Springs of Bristol, Pennsylvania, at end of "Pond" facing the Delaware River. The name C. Hebron over "Bath Springs" is apparently meant to be Charles Hepburn.

(From "New Centennial Atlas of Bucks County, Pennsylvania," 1876, by J. D. Scott.)

Journal" before they appeared in their "Transactions." Among the cases was one of a laborer who for twelve years had been afflicted with "phagedenic ulcers in his legs" and for eight years "a schirrous liver and spleen," for which prescribed medicines had given him no relief. While employed in sinking the Bath and in digging drains to carry off waste water for ten days and being usually up to his knees "in mud, ochre, and water," the ulcers on his legs healed. He was then retained as bath keeper and in eight weeks, over which period he constantly drank the chalybeate waters, his liver and spleen improved and his

health was recovered. Other recoveries, just as remarkable, after using the waters were reported.<sup>2</sup>

The proprietors of the springs, John Priestly and Charles Bassonet, were financed by Dr. De Normandie, who even traveled to England and toured the watering places for ideas which could be used at Bristol.

### *The Bristol Baths,*

**W**ITH all the improvements, which consist of two bathing rooms, two dressing rooms, a reservoir room, an elegant long room of 42 feet by 16 feet, and a pump room, all which are connected, and now in such order as to accommodate those persons who may incline to use them, together with the lot of meadow ground, orchard and plough land adjoining, containing seven acres and one-half acre, to be sold by public sale, on 7th day, 30th of next month, at the house of John Dowdny in Bristol, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon (if not sold before at private sale) if a fair day, if not, the next fair day (first day excepted.) These chalybeate waters are considered by those medical gentlemen who have attended to their virtue, to be equal if not superior to any mineral spring discovered within the United States, a particular detail of which, with a variety of diseases cured by their use (and in many instances where medical assistance had failed) have been published in the Philosophical Transactions, transmitted to that Society by John Abraham de Normandie, an ingenious and very eminent physician then practising physic at this place, to particularise the variety of complaints and diseases these waters have proved beneficial in, would be too lengthy for a newspaper. Bristol is situated on the direct road from Philadelphia to New-York, the public stages and the post passing through this place almost every day in the summer season, afford frequent and convenient opportunities for invalids and others to correspond with their friends. For further particulars, enquire of Dr. Amos Gregg, No. 16, North Front-street, in Philadelphia, or of the subscriber in Bristol.

P H I S. B U C K L E Y.

Bristol, the 6th mo. 22, 1791.

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#### SALE OF THE BRISTOL BATHS

(From "Dunlap's American Daily Advertiser," Philadelphia, Pa., of July 1, 1791.)



Through his efforts swamps near the town were drained and the villagers were urged to keep their homes suitable for summer boarders. He even persuaded the vestrymen to enlarge the Bristol Episcopal Church in 1772 for the influx of strangers. In 1769 the proprietors advertised the improvements that had been made and their ability to "provide proper lodgings" in Bristol, on reasonable terms. There was also a resident physician to keep track of treatments. By 1772 the facilities were much more adequate at the "Bristol Baths and Chalybeate Wells."<sup>3</sup> In fact so well known were the baths that in the January 27, 1773, issue of "The Pennsylvania Journal" a valuable plantation on the north side of "Neshiminy" creek was offered for sale and its advantages were its pleasant prospect of the Delaware River and its nearness to the famous Bristol Baths three miles distant. Even the owner of a country house two "short" miles above Burlington on the Jersey side, in his notice in "The Pennsylvania Gazette" of April 14, 1773, stated that his villa would be convenient for persons attending the Bristol Baths or an agreeable place of occasional retirement for a Philadelphia gentleman of fortune.

Another distinguished physician, Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia, added his voice and influence to the virtues of the chalybeate waters of Bristol when he read his paper "Experiments and Observations on the Mineral Waters of Philadelphia, Abington and Bristol" on June 18, 1773, before the American Philosophical Society.<sup>4</sup> In addition to the healing qualities of the water and the results of his experiments which have been noted elsewhere, he used Dr. De Normandie's description of the usefulness and convenience of the Bristol baths in some detail. There was a 44-foot long room, between the pump room and the bathing room where the company amused themselves for a half or three-fourths of an hour while the baths were being prepared, in walking around, talking, and drinking the waters. To the northward and adjoining the long room was the latticed pump room. Through a small door in the partition the drinkers were immediately supplied with water by an attendant. At the south end of the long room were the baths, one for ladies and one for gentlemen, each with a dressing apartment. Each bath contained 450 gallons of water which was supplied in five minutes by pumps over the principal spring. The flow of this spring was one hogshead in five minutes. After bathing, the water was drained away by underground pipes. Every bather had a fresh supply of water after a wait of several minutes.

The Bristol waters were also analyzed by Dr. James Cutbush, who tested them twenty-six times for chemical reactions, the results being published in the "Eclectic Repertory" for March 25, 1811.

Summer visitors to Bristol found better accommodations than those at other colonial spas of the period. As a result it attracted invalids from far and wide, even though the waters had "the pleasant taste of a half-boiled, half-spoiled egg" or, as Dr. Rush wrote, "a ferruginous

taste, which is not disagreeable." As the Philadelphia-New York stage traveled through Bristol six days of the week and as the roads of the neighborhood were good for their times and as the food of the resort was excellent and lodging charges reasonable, life at Bristol must have been enjoyable in spite of the chronic complaints of some visitors. Bottled water was sold through Pennsylvania from Bristol during De Normandie's time. People from other colonies came in increasing numbers to enjoy the waters and sociable times. By 1821 it was the principal mineral spring resort of the United States.

The advertising of the Bristol Bath, at least during its popular years, stressed the chalybeate waters and the great advantages derived by a number of "diseased persons" from the use of the waters. In 1770 it was stated that the waters have "most happy effects on disorders



BATH NEAR BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA

(From "The Port Folio," Philadelphia, June, 1811.)

arising from obstructions in the liver and mesenteric glands, indigestion, loss of appetite, and pain in the stomach, a relaxed and weakened state of the solids, in which, with great propriety, they may be termed specifick; in rheumatic complaints, and nervous cholicks." The waters were to be used under a physician's advice. If one could not afford this, the advice would be given free by "a Gentleman practising physick in Bristol." The proprietors, John Priestly or Charles Bassonet, had their names mentioned in the text only as agents who would procure proper lodging on a day's notice. The emphasis on the waters and the complaints to be cured make it seem as if Dr. De Normandie prepared the advertising copy.



On June 22, 1771, Elizabeth Drinker, her husband, Henry, and their son and maid arrived at Bristol. The Drinkers, one of Philadelphia's oldest families, were at the top of the wealthy social set and knew all the best people of the middle colonies. They dined at John Kidd's and went to the widow Merriott's house for tea. The boarders there were Parson Carter and his wife, Parson Peters, Mrs. David Hall, whose husband published the "Pennsylvania Gazette" and her son, David Hall, Jr., Thomas Cash's wife and their servants. From the day of Elizabeth Drinker's arrival until August 12, when she left Bristol, she went to the spring nearly every day but only to drink the water. In the early evenings she took a chaise ride with Molly Hall or a horseback ride with Dr. De Normandie's lad Amos up the picturesque Neshaminy Drive. At various times the Bath society included the Miffins of Philadelphia, the Walns, the Boudinots, Coxes, Hoffmans, Tilghmans and others from New York, New Jersey and Maryland. On June 30, Elizabeth and her husband, and their Nancy and Billy who had arrived the night before, took a little ride before breakfast. Her husband went into the "Bath" in the morning. Elizabeth and several friends also went into the cold water of the bath and found the shock much greater than she expected. On July 4, she took the plunge again with fear and trembling but felt "clever" after it, but the water was so cold that she had difficulty in breathing for many hours later. On July 8 she again took the plunge but came right out again, and it is recorded that not until twenty-eight years later did she get wet all over at once. By July 14 there were twenty-three persons lodging at Widow Merriott's place. For her visit of seven weeks duration with her son and with occasional visits of her husband, the cost was 88 pounds, 3 shillings and 8 pence. This sum was broken down as follows: "To washing, 20.16.6; to Widow Merriott, 16.6.0; To bathing for Henry Drinker, 4.0.0; Bath tickets, 1.0.0; Three season bath tickets, 9.0.0; Paid Peggy at Bath, 15.0.11; Polly Campbell, maid, 17.0.3; Polly's wagon fare, 5.0.0."<sup>5</sup>

On August 19, 1771, William Strahan, a successful London printer, friend of Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Johnson, and Edward Gibbon, wrote to his friend David Hall of Philadelphia, who became in 1748 a partner in Franklin's printing business, and among other matters said, "I am very glad Mrs. Hall begins to pick up again. Going to the Bristol Waters must be of great Service to her. The Country Air, and Waters themselves, but above all the Changing the Scene must at this time, be particularly servicable to her. . ."<sup>6</sup>

Joseph Galloway, a Tory who retired to his estate, "Trevose" in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, before the war wrote to a Mr. Verplanck from "Bucks, Trevose Dec. 7th, 1774," in part as follows: I live in Expectation that you will fulfill your intention of coming in the spring to this part of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Galloway unites with me in renewing our earnest Solicitations, should that be ye case, that you and



Mrs. Verplanck will make Trevoſe the Place of your Reſidence during your ſtay, and will not think of taking lodgings at Briſtol. You may here have the benefit of the waters without the Injury which may be derived from the heat or air of that place. The air of Trevoſe is acknowledged to be pure and healthful. The Alterative from ſalt to pure freſh air, aſſiſted by the uſe of the waters, which may be obtained any day, and a moderate ſhare of exerciſe, may and will in all probability reſtore your conſtitution. . .”<sup>7</sup>

Chriſtopher Maſhall’s “Diary, kept in Philadelphia and Lancaſter during the American Revolution 1774-1781” contains the following entry for July 16, 1775: “After two, Charles and his wife and daughter, Betſey, came in the chair; juſt ſtopped and bid us farewell. They were going to Briſtol, to try the water, on account of Son Charles’s health.”<sup>8</sup>

A three-line advertisement in “The Pennsylvania Packet” (Philadelphia) of January 27, 1785, ſtated, “The Briſtol Baths are now ſet for the Reception of thoſe Perſons who may be inclined to uſe them.”

Dr. John A. De Normandie, who was born in July, 1713, at Briſtol, Pennsylvania, moved to Burlington, New Jerſey, around 1787. When the Burlington Society for the Promotion of Agriculture and Domestic Manufactures was organized in 1790, on February 6 at Burlington, Dr. De Normandie at the age of ſeventy-ſeven was elected its firſt preſident. At this election votes were taken by means of grains of corn. A yellow grain was an affirmative vote, a red grain, a negative vote. The annual dues of the Society were one ſilver dollar. On April 7, 1792, Dr. De Normandie delivered a long addreſs before the Society entitled, “On the Connection between Agriculture, Manufactures, and Commerce,” that was printed in “Dunlap’s American Daily Advertiser” for Auguſt 3, 1792, and its ſucceeding iſſue. He was elected to the New Jerſey Medical Society in 1790. He died at Hyde Park, New York, in the home of the Bords at the age of ninety years, “after 10 years of imbecility,” the Bords having moved from Burlington, New Jerſey, to Hyde Park.<sup>9</sup>

It is not known how long Dr. De Normandie retained the title to the Briſtol Baths, but in 1791, when he was ſeventy-eight years old, the property was advertised for ſale in “Dunlap’s American Daily Advertiser” (Philadelphia) of July 1 and Auguſt 10, by Phineas Buckley of Briſtol. Inter-eſted perſons who wanted more particulars than appeared in the advertising were directed to Dr. Amos Gregg, 16 North Front Street, Philadelphia. The public ſale was to be held at the houſe of John Dowdny in Briſtol on Auguſt 30, 1791. The purchaſer at the ſale or later was Dr. Joſeph P. Minnick.

In “Porcupine’s Gazette” (Philadelphia) of June 12, 1797, Dr. Joſeph P. Minnick as proprietor ſtated that for ſeveral years he had been improving the baths at Briſtol and that there were four plunging

baths, two shower baths and one hot bath in separate rooms. In addition, there was an elegant room, forty-four feet long and sixteen feet wide with a high arched ceiling. This room commanded a beautiful prospect of the adjacent country. The baths were about a half mile from Bristol village. The medicinal properties of the water were equal to any in Europe. Lodgings could be easily had and Dr. Minnick would engage them if he had a few days notice.

According to Shelton, the property was advertised for sale in 1807, the notice calling attention to the commodious building, the good fishing and hunting around Bristol, and the chalybeate waters of the springs. Dr. Minnick had made extensive alterations for the accommodation of his patients from all parts of the country. He had erected a large frame building called the Bath Springs Hotel. He had also laid out a small race course on the western side of the tract. There was also a race track below Bristol, which had nothing to do with the springs, and the semi-annual races there brought sporting people from various places to Bristol. The resort developed into a much frequented and entertaining spot. J. Leaver announced in the Philadelphia "Aurora" of August 6, 1810, that on Saturday evening next there would be a ball in the "Long Room" at Bath near Bristol.

Many distinguished persons spent several weeks there in the summer. Among such were General Mifflin and his family, General Cadwalader, Dr. Rush, Baron Ludwig of Prussia, and Augustus Claudious, the German Consul, the Spanish Minister James Sime Ento, Don De Onos, Captain Antinio Furey Piquot of the French Navy, and others. During and after the War of 1812, the spa was a scene of much social gaiety. At the end of the War of 1812 a grand ball to celebrate peace took place. This event in 1816 embraced a brilliant company at the old mansion. Army and Navy officers danced the minuet with belles. Flags, festoons and Chinese lanterns decorated all the trees. There was a dinner at four o'clock in the morning.

Across the river in Bordentown, New Jersey, lived Joseph Bonaparte, the ex-King of Spain, who often visited the baths accompanied by the exiled Prince Murat, son of the Marshal of France. Between 1810 and 1820 the Bath Springs at Bristol were as famous as Saratoga became later. Early in 1811 Dr. Minnick sold his property to George Follett. The mansion then was 112 x 33 feet, with 30 lodging rooms, a 12-foot piazza, 2 kitchens, a bar room, and stables for 100 horses. Nearby was a ballroom 45 x 18 feet, a billiard room, mineral baths, warm baths, pump room, etc., and 40 acres.<sup>10</sup>

When the property was sold to Follett, it was described in part in such glowing terms as the following: "The public-spirited proprietor of the hotel and baths of this vicinity, has been alike liberal of his time and his property to effectuate every purpose of public accommodation. The mansion for the reception of travellers; the offices for the accommodation of domestics; the larder, for the luxury of the Gourmand; and



the cellar for Bacchus's hoard, all testify that anxious wish to please, which liberal men of the world cannot fail to appreciate generally."<sup>10</sup>

At this time an unknown author in "The Port Folio" (Philadelphia) of June 11 was lavish in his praise of the springs and of the town of Bristol "romantically situated on one of the most verdant margins of the Delaware, in one of those enchanting spots in the bosom of nature, on which the philosopher, the lover, the studious and the social, with equal rapture repose." Among its "rural joys" were the mineral spring "so salutary to many a sufferer," the nearby sporting country, "so gladsome to the robust hunter," or to "the patient fisherman," the "aliment of the naturalist," the "bird's eye view of Burlington." All these joys united to convince one whose soul was corroded by the cares of a crowded city "that at Bristol, one could find contentment." The



BRISTOL SPRINGS

(Photographed by the courtesy of Hugh B. Eastburn of Bristol, Pennsylvania, from an 1855 wall map of Bristol Borough in his possession. Springhouse surmounted by a statue of Hygeia, goddess of health.)

proprietor of the hotel is praised, the larder and the wine cellar, likewise the baths and the mineral springs for their happy influence on the debilitated, the hypochondriacal, the dyspeptic and the paralytic.

George Follett was an Englishman distinguished for his excellence as a landlord. He did not stay at Bristol long, as in 1812 he advertised that he had opened a roomy house in Princeton, the Red Lion.<sup>11</sup> This was the tavern on the corner of Nassau Street and College Lane, formerly kept by Colonel Hyers. He was a good caterer and knew how to please guests. He later kept tavern at the brick hotel in Albany Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey.<sup>12</sup>



In 1809 Bath Street was opened in Bristol by private individuals. The council declared this to be an "infringement of the rights of the corporation." In 1821 the street was widened and regulated.

In 1810 Mrs. Kammerer, who conducted a genteel lodging house at Burlington, New Jersey, advertised the almost hourly trips by steamboats and water packets to Bristol, Trenton and Philadelphia. The Bristol Baths, elegantly fitted up, were directly across the river from her waterfront property. Upon request she supplied Bristol mineral water every day.<sup>13</sup> Joseph Dennie, founder and editor of "The Port Folio" (Philadelphia), a brilliant lawyer, editor and writer who drank too much and engaged in social activities to the detriment of his business and health, visited Bristol during the summer of 1811 thinking that the waters might renovate his strength. He lived at the Bath hotel, but found the place not congenial, as it was full of strangers. He finally withdrew from social contacts and devoted himself to solitary drinking, allowing "The Port Folio" and his office to go to pot. Upon the urging of his friends he got on his feet for a short time, but died January 7, 1812.<sup>14</sup>

In 1815 the Bath Mineral Springs were open as usual for the reception of company. The advertising took pains to tell the public that the Bath was distinct from the Borough of Bristol, one quarter of a mile, and twenty miles from Philadelphia. On Sundays dinner was at two o'clock. Its baths, trees, shrubs, gravel walks, and extensive lake abounding with fish afforded amusement to the invalid and "a scene of interesting elegance to all." The Philadelphia office at the time was at 78 North Front Street.<sup>15</sup>

The Bristol Bath Hotel was offered for sale in September, 1817.<sup>16</sup> Interested parties were to apply to 190 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia. Steamboats continued to stop at Bristol from Trenton and Philadelphia. In 1825 John Bessonett advertised a 1:30 P.M. dinner via excursion steamboat "Trenton" that left Philadelphia at 8:00 A.M. for Bristol on Sundays.<sup>17</sup>

According to Bache<sup>1</sup> sometime before 1853 the Bath property after years of neglect was bought by Charles Hepburn, who renovated the place, cleaned the old mineral springs and put the place into shape as a summer resort for health, pleasure and relaxation.

In 1853 and 1854, J. A. Hester advertised "Bath Springs, Bristol, Pa." as a summer resort with boarding accommodations for families with mention of the baths, plunge and shower, but not of the healing virtues of the waters. Eventually the property was abandoned as a spa. Doctor Gill, a French surgeon, purchased the place, living there for many years. Later the grounds were used on "Training Days" by the militia, and also as an excursion resort. It was a favorite spot for the old volunteer firemen of Philadelphia who made the "Springs" a "scene of riotous dissipation," so much so, that boats were prohibited from landing excursions at Bristol.

From the "Doylestown Democrat" (Pennsylvania) the "Bristol Letter," published at various times between 1865 and 1869, mentions Bath Springs which had by that time degenerated into a mere playground for the general public. During the summer months it was frequented by German societies; Sunday School excursions, one of which from an Irish Presbyterian Church numbered about 1,000 persons; and the "Sons and Daughters of Jacob," a society of colored persons from Trenton, New Jersey. These groups, which frequently arrived by steamboats or trains from Philadelphia, Trenton, Wilmington, etc., sometimes were accompanied by bands of music. The steamboat "Pilot Boy" brought many excursionists from Philadelphia, to the number of ten or twelve thousand. There were dancing, tenpins, riding horses for ladies, and plenty of beer. Some groups were orderly. Some were disorderly. Some outings took place with the temperatures in the gay nineties. On a Catholic Church outing from Philadelphia during August, 1869, a group while boarding the steamboat "Edwin Forrest" for home pushed young John Kelly into the Delaware River. Bernard Downey leaped overboard and seized him by the clothing as he came to the surface. At the same time four other rescuers leaped into the water and accidentally broke Downey's hold on the boy, who sank to the bottom and was never recovered. As a result some of the women took a train to the city.

A new road cut through the property in 1870 finished the bath-houses and the hotel ruins remained overlooking a mill pond for several years. Davis, writing in 1905, stated that the Bath Springs had been closed for many years, the houses being torn down, a street opened between the house and the springs, the springs filled up and the millpond neglected since 1888.<sup>18</sup> Today only part of the pond remains, at Levittown, and few persons are aware of the famous Bristol Baths of long ago. Around 1911 the Pennsylvania Railroad Company built a new line through the town cutting the end of the resort and eventually it disappeared completely.<sup>19</sup>

### *David's Well*

Solomon Hersey in 1872 mentioned a spring of chalybeate water known as David's Well, two and a half miles north of Bristol, Pennsylvania. According to him spacious buildings had been erected recently and the place gave promise of becoming a resort for invalids and seekers after pleasure.<sup>20</sup> Davis in 1905 wrote that originally there were three swamps in Bristol borough covering over one thousand acres. The largest was "Pigeon" swamp, on the edge of which near the millpond was the "Mystic Well." Spiritual influence was responsible for its discovery. Daniel B. Taylor, of Lower Makefield, was advised by spirits to purchase a farm in the possession of Malachi White. This farm contained a medicinal spring which could be lo-

cated by digging down at a particular spot 101 feet and 6 inches. The farm was bought and the digging was started. After a depth of 60 feet through loam, gravel and sand, and 41 feet, 9 inches of boring through a hard, blue rock, chalybeate water was reached. The spirits were 3 inches short in their calculations, which was not bad at all. An "eight-inch" iron pipe was sunk to the source of the water and Mr. Taylor built a \$13,000 boardinghouse nearby. In 1869 the water was analyzed by Dr. Gaunt of Philadelphia and found to contain "carbonate of the protoxide of iron, 3.60; sulphate of the protoxide of iron, 0.25; carbonate of lime, 1.40; sulphate of lime, 0.75; carbonate of magnesia, 0.57; sulphate of magnesia, 0.51; sulphate of potassia, 0.46; hydrated silica, 0.86; organic matter, a trace; total 8.40" to the gallon. There was some water sold at fifty cents per bottle and a few visitors came to the well.<sup>18</sup>

**Mystic Water from David's Well.**—The great Diuretic, Tonic and Alterative remedy of the age, holds in solution the *Protoxide of Iron* and other valuable compounds, and is being proved by the unerring test of repeated trials, as one of the best known remedies for Kidney Diseases, Dyspepsia, Nervousness, Liver Complaints, Catarrhal Affections, Consumption, in its early stages, Diabetes, and General debility. It purifies and enriches the blood, increases the appetite, promotes digestion, stimulates the secretions and vitalizes the nervous system. It is highly recommended by physicians, and the testimonials of invalids reveal its secret powers. It is sold at the low price of \$3.00 per box of one dozen bottles, delivered at Bristol, Pa., to be expressed to any point.  
 The Healing Institute at David's Well is designed to accommodate patients during all seasons of the year, who prefer drinking the Mystic Water from the Well.

**D. S. CADWALLANDER,**

Feb 25-5m

1005 Race St., Phila.

MYSTIC WATER FROM DAVID'S WELL

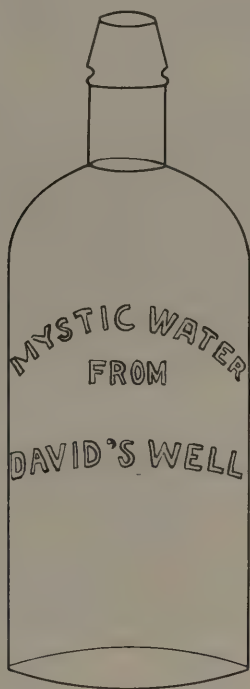
(From "The New Republic," Camden, N. J., of June 10, 1871.)

D. S. Cadwallander, 1005 Race Street, Philadelphia, advertised "Mystic Water from David's Well" in 1871 as being one of the best known remedies for kidney diseases, dyspepsia, liver complaints, nervousness, consumption in its early stages, diabetes, etc., being highly recommended by physicians and the testimonials of invalids. The price was \$3.00 per box of one dozen bottles. It was shipped from Bristol, Pennsylvania, to any point. The advertising mentioned the Healing Institute at David's Well and the accommodations there for patients during all seasons of the year.<sup>21</sup>

On October 21, 1960, the authors visited David's Mystic Well located on the Booz farm at Mill Creek Road and Green Lane, in (East) Bristol Township, two miles north of Bristol, now known as



Ward 6. The farm borders present-day Levittown. Mrs. Emma Booz, widow of James Milnor Booz, said that the well had not been used for years and she could not recall when its water had been used last. The drilled well-pipe is topped with an iron hand pump. The well is enclosed in a small, frame, one-room building close to the farmhouse and about fifty feet from the intersecting roads, with its front door facing Mill Creek Road. Mrs. Booz said that her husband's grandfather, James A. Milnor, had helped to drill the well for its original owner. Subsequently James A. Milnor acquired title to the farm and well. He had two daughters, Beulah, who married Jonathan ("Hutch") Booz, and Sarah, who married Lovett Booz, a cousin of Jonathan. Jonathan and Beulah became the parents of James Milnor Booz, whose widow Emma is the present owner.



Sketch of green glass bottle in which Mystic Water from David's Well was sold. Original size 9½ inches by 3½ inches. This was the only early spring water bottle that came to our notice.

Mrs. Booz has in her possession a one-quart, green glass bottle preserved from former mineral water days with the words "Mystic Water From David's Well" blown in the glass. She told an amusing account of the use of the mineral water by a cook on the Booz farm who had found the mineral water handier in making coffee than the household spring water. After drinking the hot coffee, laden with its sulphate and carbonate of magnesia, the members of the household, one by one, left the dinner table in haste. This disturbed the head of the household, who feared illness or poisoning. He finally obtained an

admission from the cook that she had used the wrong water. Interest in the use of the water about twenty years ago induced a chemical analysis, but the report was disappointing and came back with advice to boil the water before using it. It was no longer "mystic" or healing. Mrs. Booz said that the \$13,000 boardinghouse, or "Healing Institute," that stood nearby on Green Lane across the road from where the new Woodrow Wilson High School now (1960) stands, burned down around 1876.

### *Aquetong or Ingham Spring*

Although not a mineral spring, the great Aquetong or Aquatone or Ingham Spring, reportedly the "largest on the Atlantic coast between Maine and Florida," should not be omitted from this account. This spring, near the center of Solebury Township in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, is close to York Road about two and a half miles from New Hope. From information supplied by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Perry A. Bond, and from other sources, we have compiled the following record of the spring ownership, beginning with the Indians from whom the spring along with other property was acquired by William Penn under the terms of the Great Treaty. On November 1, 1701, William Penn granted to his secretary, James Logan, a tract of approximately six hundred acres in the center of which was the spring. Jonas Ingham, an English Friend and fuller who came to New England from England about 1705, after living in various places finally settled in Solebury in 1730. In a letter (in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania) dated November 25, 1706, to a friend, Jonathan Dickenson, Jonas Ingham writing from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, said that he had been in the country three months and had come by way of York and through Jersey to Burlington. He could have gotten employment in a short time but he wanted to be near an old acquaintance from England so he went to a new fulling mill five miles from Bristol, where he expected to be settled for seven years in both milling and dyeing. Some accounts state that Jonas' son Jonathan bought the spring tract from James Logan in 1747, but it is more likely that Jonas bought the tract from Logan, as Jonathan inherited the farm and fulling mill at "the Great Spring" which Jonas had built earlier a short distance on the creek below the spring.

Jonathan Ingham became an influential citizen. One of his three sons, the youngest, Dr. Jonathan Ingham, was a distinguished physician who practiced in the yellow fever areas of Philadelphia in 1793 and contracted the disease. Starting for Schooley's Mountain Springs, in whose waters he had faith, with his wife and slave Cato, he died in his carriage at Clinton, New Jersey, on October 1, 1793, and was buried at the edge of the graveyard in Clinton. Another son, Samuel D. Ingham, born in 1779, inherited the spring property

when he became of age, his father having died in 1793. Samuel D. was Secretary of the Treasury in President Andrew Jackson's administration. He died in 1860.<sup>22</sup> He was 81 and his death took place in Trenton, New Jersey, on June 12.

The next owner was Dr. R. V. Mattison, of Ambler, Pennsylvania, who in 1870 built the dams on the property making the pool and the lake. The Bonds purchased the place from the Mattison estates in 1936. In the early 1900s the water was bottled and sold. At one time it was served in the dining cars of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. In 1906 Edward C. Lewis lived on the property as a caretaker and tenant. The Bonds' holding consists of twenty-five acres, which includes fifteen acres of water.



THE INGHAM OR AQUETONG SPRING

The Ingham or Aquetong Spring which feeds Deer Park Lake in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Photographed before extensive improvements were made by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Perry A. Bond.

The clear, cold water of the spring emerges from the bottom of a pool and then leaves over a spillway into a gully in which it flows into Deer Park Lake, several acres in extent.<sup>23</sup> From the lake it flows as a stream which empties into the Delaware River at New Hope. A number of mills were established along the stream, including a grist mill built about 1707 by Robert Heath, a fulling mill built by the original Ingham, another earlier one built in 1712 by Philip Williams, a sawmill erected about 1740, a forge about 1745, and a papermill built about 1790 and operated by Samuel D. Ingham until his death in 1860.<sup>22</sup> The gristmill built in 1707 by Robert



Heath was at that time the only one within twenty-five miles. This stream on which the Armitage family built a mill in 1748 was still known as Armitage's around 1871. During the early years of Solebury Township, the stream was known as Scuttelaushe, so named after an Indian child who perished in it.<sup>24</sup>

In 1926 Walter S. Lapp submitted to the University of Pennsylvania a thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts. This was entitled, "A Report on Ingham Spring, Bucks County, Pennsylvania." Mr. Lapp's immediate purpose was to determine the normal temperature of the spring, but other information was added during his study. Many natives of Bucks County, at the time, believed that the spring originated from a definite underground channel. This belief seemed to be tied in to a statement in Davis and Jordan's *History of Bucks County*, in which a celebrated sink "on the line between the farms of Benjamin Smith and Amos Corson, a fourth of a mile southeast of Greenville," was thought to be connected with Ingham Spring three miles away. The sink was named by the Indians "Holy Cong," but to the township people it was known as Conkey Hole. It is described by Lapp as "a nearly circular, funnel-shaped basin, about forty yards in diameter and from forty to sixty feet down to the water. The water rises and falls in this funnel; formerly at times it was twenty feet across the surface, and then would fall until it appeared to be not more than two." A limestone projection prevented its depth from being measured.

The Conkey Hole in 1826 was on land owned by Dr. W. B. Force. It was about 1,500 feet to the right of the Old York Road as one left Greenville (Holicong) for New Hope. Around 1902 it was on land owned by the late Hiel Gilbert and was then described as from twenty to thirty feet deep to the water without any known bottom. A clipping (1902) in a book of clippings that once belonged to W. W. H. Davis and which is preserved in the library of the Bucks County (Pennsylvania) Historical Society refers to the peculiarity of the hole in that whatever is thrown into it will emerge at Ingham Spring three miles away. An Indian tradition mentions the shooting of a deer on the brink of the opening, causing it to fall in and its subsequent emergence at the "Great" or Ingham Spring. And in 1900 people living in the vicinity remembered that the chaff from a bed mattress emptied by a woman of the neighborhood into the Conkey Hole was later found floating on the surface of the "Great Spring."

As the waters of Conkey Hole and Ingham Spring were known to contain only negligible amounts of natural sulphates, on December 28, 1925, one hundred pounds of magnesium sulphate were dumped into the Conkey Hole at 10:30 A.M. Ten minutes later the water at Ingham Spring was sampled at intervals of two to three minutes. Each sample was tested with barium chloride, all with negative

results. This procedure was followed until 2:30 P.M. In no case was a precipitate obtained. The water at Conkey Hole was also tested with negative results. As a result Mr. Lapp, while not denying that there may be some underground connection between Ingham Spring and the Conkey Hole, did not believe there was a definite underground channel connecting the two places. Four hours, he thought was a sufficient length of time for water to flow three miles. He wrote that if there was any connection at all it was possible for the water passing through the Conkey Hole to flow into the main source of the water later discharged at Ingham Spring.

As the spring did not originate from a definite underground channel, it was believed to be a fissure spring, and upon an examination of the geological formations around the spring as set forth by the "Trenton Folio of the Geologic Atlas of New Jersey" it was found that a definite fault existed from which the spring issues. Since the predominant formations of the surrounding territory are Triassic and since "the sedimentary rocks of the Triassic area varying from coarse conglomerates through sandstone to fine clay shales" are porous, holding up to thirty per cent of their own volume of water, it was concluded that the waters of Ingham Spring are derived from the "immensely thick, very porous, water-absorbing" great, surrounding, Triassic formation.

The temperature of the water was found to remain constant at 11.13° C. through every month of the year. It was thought that the water table from which the spring issues is "probably from 50 to 100 feet below the surface at the point of discharge." A chemical examination found considerable sodium chloride. The oxygen-consuming power was 0.1 parts per million. The nitrogen present was small. There was no contamination. The water was pure and safe. It was only moderately hard. The flow was found to be about 2,000 gallons per minute or two million gallons daily. The depth of the oval (75' x 40') reservoir in 1926 was about twelve feet.<sup>25</sup>

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## CHAPTER XVI

### Yellow Springs

One of the most notable of the spring resorts of the Philadelphia area during the colonial and revolutionary periods was Yellow Springs on Pickering Creek in West Pikeland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. This was about thirty-two miles west of Philadelphia. Favored by the squirarchy of the period, Yellow Springs for a time perhaps was the most important watering place in the country. It was reported that throngs of visitors ranging from one hundred to five hundred visited the place daily during the summer months shortly after the discovery of the medicinal properties of the springs in 1722. A hotel of sorts was opened in 1750 in a log hut of limited accommodations. This was kept by a Robert Pritchard, who as the owner of Yellow Springs, petitioned the Court of Quarter Sessions of Chester County for a license "to keep a house of entertainment" at the place on August 28, 1750.<sup>1</sup> Later, a silversmith of Philadelphia, John Bailey, became the proprietor and built a larger place. As a result of his improvements from time to time, the springs became a popular resort, especially on Sundays, with the Quakers of Philadelphia. There were also visitors from other parts of the country and from abroad, who drank the unpalatable water impregnated with sulphur and iron. However, the water and its cures, and the beauty of the surroundings, were not the only attractions. By 1765 Yellow Springs was regarded by the Good Friends of the Uwehlan Monthly Meeting as a "place of Promiscuous Resort" which during the summer "in particular was made a place of Diversion." It was feared that if their children as well as the children of others were permitted to go there when there was no necessity, they would be hurt in a religious sense. According to the 1765 records of the Meeting it was suggested that the matter become the concern of the Quarterly Meeting.<sup>2</sup>

In 1762 the host of Bailey's stone inn was James Martin, who had kept the tavern as much "to the Satisfaction and Ease of the neighbors in General," as to that of the "vast Concourses of People" who daily visited the springs for their health, from Philadelphia as well as from all sections of the country and foreign parts.<sup>3</sup> Large numbers of visitors came by stages. These could not afford their own chairs or chaises, but they readily paid the stage fare in order to stay at the springs for twenty-two shillings per week, the charge made by Jonathan Durell. In 1763, starting in May, a stage left for the springs at six o'clock in the morning, three times weekly, from William Peter's house in Philadelphia. Later they left from the Indian Queen Tavern.

In spite of good patronage, the springs were not a profitable venture. Between 1750 and 1753 and often thereafter, the management of the inn and baths changed hands. In March, 1770, John Bailey's place was put up for sale at a public auction at the London Coffee House, Philadelphia. At that time he had a tract of one hundred fifty acres, one half or more cleared, the other well wooded. Water was abundant from constant streams. There was a good stone dwelling, two stories high, fifty-seven feet front and thirty-six feet deep. It had a fine piazza in front, eight or nine feet wide, the entire breadth of the house. There were a good cellar, chambers, kitchen, barn, stables and outhouses, also a new log storehouse about eighteen feet square, with a good spring and milk house, oven and other conveniences. There were three bathing springs which could be emptied or filled in very little time by opening or closing a sluice. Two of them were enclosed by good, new, frame houses, thirty-five feet front and sixteen feet deep. Each bath had a drawing-room and one had a fireplace. The buildings were neat and looked elegant, hav-

### Chalvbeare Waters.

**T**HE Baths at the Yellow Springs have been repaired a new, shower baths erected, and several other repairs done. in order to accommodate those who may wish to use them this season. The very high esteem in which these waters have been held for many years, renders it unnecessary to say any thing of their medicinal properties. Entertainment for man and horse kept at the spring by

6wzaw.

Robert Patton.

#### ADVERTISEMENT OF YELLOW SPRINGS

(From "Dunlap's American Daily Advertiser," of Philadelphia for July 9, 1792.)

ing glass windows, and walks lined with rows of shade trees up to the dwelling house. The dwelling house, then used as a tavern, was accustomed to serve from one hundred to five hundred persons daily during the summer, as well as the unhealthy and infirm who came from all parts and took lodgings for weeks in order to take the waters. There was a sawmill, and twenty-five acres of wheat on the property.<sup>4</sup> As there were no bidders, the tract was advertised for sale again in 1771. On August 23, 1771, Elizabeth Drinker and some of her friends went to Yellow Springs, dined there and took a walk in the meadow. She, her husband and son, all took a "duck in the Bath." In the Historical Society of Pennsylvania there is a letter from Philemon Dickinson to his aunt in Belleville, written from Reading,

Pennsylvania, on September 20, 1770, in which he said, "We arrived here yesterday at dusk, well tired, & in pretty good spirits. Tuesday we dined with your worthy Servant———at Norristown who, with his wife gave us a very kind Reception—That night we got to Yellow Springs. We brought some of the water away with us, but Sally [his wife] complains that it makes her eyes smart, so that I believe she will not use it any more."

The Rev. James Sproat, clergyman of the Presbyterian Church, who was elected by Congress on February 10, 1778, as chaplain for the Hospitals in the Middle Department, visited Yellow Springs, according to his diary, on April 25, June 12, September 15 and October 13 in 1778, where he held services and prayed in the hospital with the sick who were unable to attend services. While there on June 12 he visited Dr. Bodo Otto, and also Dr. Kennedy who was very sick.

It is not known if Bailey continued to operate the resort or not after his failure to sell it in 1771. There is a possibility that it may have remained idle until it was acquired in 1774 by Dr. Samuel Kennedy, who operated the inn perhaps as a sort of sanitarium for persons who had faith in mineral water as a cure for their ills. Dr. Kennedy in February, 1774, advertised the place for rent, by April 1 of that year, including its one hundred and fifty acres of land, a very large dwelling house, a large new stone barn, the baths and other outhouses, a saw-mill rebuilt during the summer of 1773 and two other large farms nearby. Application was to be made to Dr. Kennedy at East-Whiteland.<sup>5</sup>

Following the Battle of Brandywine September 11, 1777, the wounded Continental soldiers were moved to Yellow Springs, which was selected as hospital headquarters for the army. Dr. Kennedy had offered the facilities of his establishment, and an appropriation was made for an additional building ninety feet long to accommodate nearly 1,300 soldiers. Dr. Kennedy died in 1778, and the resort served as a retreat for sick and wounded soldiers<sup>6</sup> and as chief military hospital of the Revolution until discontinued in 1781.

Dr. Bodo Otto had charge of the new hospital, which was filled by the sick from Valley Forge only ten or twelve miles away. There he was assisted by his three sons. Bodo Otto came to America by way of England on the ship "Neptune" which docked in Philadelphia on October 7, 1755. He lived in Germantown and before 1760 he had moved to the Cohansey region of New Jersey. He was a colonial physician of Philadelphia and nearby New Jersey. When the Revolution started, he, then sixty-five years old, was selected chief surgeon of the Battalion of the Flying Camp Troops by the Committee of Berks County, Pennsylvania. After leaving New Jersey he turned his practice over to his son, Bodo Otto, Jr.<sup>7</sup> Bodo Otto was born in Germany in 1711 and died in Reading, Pennsylvania, in 1787. His son, Bodo Otto, Jr., had accompanied his father to America when only



seven years old, having been born in Germany on September 14, 1748. He was twelve years old when his father moved to Swedesboro, New Jersey, from Germantown, Pennsylvania. He studied medicine under his father and in 1767 was qualified to practice while living in Philadelphia. At that time he bought property about two miles below Mantua Creek bridge in Greenwich Township in Gloucester County, New Jersey, for 497 pounds and took his bride there a year later. At the outbreak of war the State Assembly of New Jersey appointed him surgeon of a battalion detached from the militia in the counties of Burlington, Gloucester and Cumberland under the command of Colonel Charles Reed. After this regiment was discharged, Otto returned to Gloucester County and helped to organize a cavalry com-

### NEW ESTABLISHMENT AT YELLOW SPRINGS.

THE subscriber respectfully informs the citizens of Philadelphia and elsewhere, that he has erected buildings at the above place, which are comfortable and pleasant, for the reception of ladies and gentlemen. He, therefore, solicits a share of public patronage, and returns his thanks for favors received heretofore. The Yellow Springs are 28 miles from Philadelphia; excellent roads from the city either by way of Lancaster turnpike, Gulf Road, or Norristown. It is unnecessary to comment on the qualities or benefits of the waters of the springs—as they have been well approved of, and much resorted to, in former years, while the subscriber kept them.

The Liquors are of the first quality; his lodgings are new; and the arrangements are well selected for convenience—and he hopes to give general satisfaction to those who may honor him with a trial.

JAMES BONES.

N. B. A line of Stages starts from the Springs, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; arrives same afternoons at Mr. Jas. Elliott's, Chesnut street, near Sixth street, Philadelphia, leaves Mr. Elliott's every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, for the Springs, during the summer months, under the direction of the proprietor, Mr. Elliott, who is provided with good stage horses and excellent drivers.

J. B.

Yellow Springs. July 3 (13

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### YELLOW SPRINGS

(From the "Aurora and General Advertiser," Philadelphia, Pa., of August 22, 1820.)

pany. This was in 1777, and later he was made the colonel of a regiment recruited in Cumberland, Salem and Gloucester counties. A skirmish between the British and Continentals on Otto's farm in March, 1778, resulted in the burning of Otto's property by the British. Dr. Bodo Otto, Jr., died of consumption at his home in Gloucester County on February 19, 1782.<sup>8</sup>

After the end of the war, Yellow Springs resumed its position as a health resort. In "The Pennsylvania Packet" (Philadelphia) of July 13, 1785, it was being run by Alexander M'Carraher, who stated

that the baths and bathing houses had been repaired, that a number of persons in Philadelphia, the West Indies and elsewhere had been cured by the waters, which were strongly chalybeate, that it was only "twenty-eight" miles from Philadelphia, and that genteel accommodations were available. In addition, horses were available for those who liked riding, and excellent fishing and fowling were to be had. M'Carraher may have taken over the Yellow Springs tavern in 1783, as an advertisement in "The Pennsylvania Packet" for July 15 of that year stated that he "now" occupied the place which was fitted up for the reception of persons who wanted to make use of the famous medicinal waters.

Although the waters of Yellow Springs had been popular for many years, not only with the public but with certain physicians as well, it was not apparently until 1808 that we find an analysis of them, reported by Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton in the "Third Supplement to the Philadelphia Medical and Physical Journal," published at Philadelphia in 1809. The chemist responsible for the report was apparently one "M." who was on a mineralogical tour through the United States at the time, and his report was sent to Barton who edited the Journal. As was customary at the time, the mineral water was subjected to tests with various reagents such as lime water, alcoholic soap solution, prussiate of potash, "alkohol" of galls, nitrate of silver, "oxalate" of potash, and was also tested with litmus and turmeric. The results obtained by these methods indicated that the mineral water was a "simple carbonated chalybeate," a water holding a small quantity of iron in solution by its carbonic acid gas. In other respects it was "nearly perfectly pure, containing scarcely any other foreign ingredients." It was not the design of "M." to describe the medical properties of the water, as this was within the province of a physician and it was not his intention to depreciate the good qualities of the spring, but he believed that many advantages might arise from its moderate use as a tonic assisted by the salubrity of the air, the pleasures of society and the beauty of the scenery. In other words, "M." was not committing himself to any one thing.

Dr. Barton, who brought the analysis to public attention, was born at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1766, his mother being a sister of David Rittenhouse, the astronomer, and his father an Episcopal minister. In 1786 Barton sailed for Edinburgh, where he studied medicine for two years and then took his degree at Gottingen in 1789. Returning to America he began to practice in Philadelphia. When only twenty-four he was appointed to the chair of natural history and botany in the College of Philadelphia. When the College united with the University of Pennsylvania his appointment was continued. After Dr. Benjamin Rush died in 1813, Barton became professor of the theory and practice of medicine in the University. He died in 1815. He published the "Medical and Physical Journal" beginning in 1805.

A detailed, modern analysis of the water of the iron and sulphur springs at Yellow Springs was made in 1952 by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and may be found in "The Vanishing Spas of Pennsylvania" by Doctors Igho H. Kornbluh and George Morris Piersol. (Trans. College Physicians of Phila., August, 1953-February, 1954.)

In "Dunlap's American Daily Advertiser" (Philadelphia) of July 9, 1792, Robert Patton advertised that the baths at the Springs had been repaired, shower baths erected and other repairs made. The chalybeate waters were praised and Robert Patton kept "entertainment" for man and horse. In the "Aurora" (Philadelphia) of May 27, 1806, James Bones announced that he had lately purchased Yellow Springs and that nothing would be wanting on his part to give general satisfaction. Colonel Bones was a progressive individual and under his administration the resort again became a celebrated and favorite watering place for Philadelphians. In 1814 Colonel James Bones started to develop a town by dividing the property into 101 lots of which 100 were for sale and one, containing the main spring, was to be kept for the common good. About a third of the lots were sold by lottery, but the real estate scheme was not successful.<sup>2</sup> A few lots were built upon or enclosed, but the town of Bath never materialized. The establishment in 1814 passed into the hands of others and declined until 1820, at which time Colonel Bones bought back a part of the property, opened a house and established credit. Mrs. Margaret Holman bought the other house, called the Cottage Hotel, which she held until about 1837. Both she and Colonel Bones improved their holdings and the springs again became fashionable and popular.

Mrs. Holman in "The Democratic Press" of Philadelphia for June 28, 1832, advised her patrons that at the Yellow Spring Hotel she had, at her own expense, thoroughly repaired the bathhouse. New floors had been laid. The walls had been rebuilt and the dressing rooms had been refitted. She also built two new Summer Houses in the grove. In addition, her servants were civil and attentive and the best provisions and liquor were available.

A notice in a local paper on February 16, 1831, signed by David Lightfoot, John Latshaw, and Samuel Holman asked the residents in the vicinity of Yellow Springs to meet at the house of Mrs. Margaret Holman on the seventh day, the nineteenth of February "in order to take into consideration the propriety of making a Rail-Road from the Yellow Springs to intersect the Pennsylvania Rail Road at the most eligible point, on a direction to Philadelphia."

It was in the 1830s that David Paul Brown, Philadelphia's eminent criminal lawyer, forensic orator, and dramatist composed his first tragedy, "Sertorius," while riding horseback from his Washington Square mansion to Yellow Springs, where his family was spending the summer. In 1836, according to Joseph Jackson in his "Literary



Landmarks of Philadelphia," his second play, "The Prophet of St. Paul's," was composed the same way.

In 1830 Colonel Bones conveyed his holdings to his son-in-law, Anthony Wayne Olwine, who had married his daughter, Maria R. Bones, on August 3, 1826, in the Arch Street Meeting. Olwine was a merchant and had his store near the White Horse in East-Whitelands Township. In 1829 he moved his assortment of general goods to a new store "at the sign of the Lamb in West-Nentmeal Township," Chester County. In 1826 he was postmaster at Yellow Springs. On June 1, 1830, he announced his proprietorship of the Yellow Springs lately owned by Colonel Bones and advised the public of his planned improvements. In 1831 his place, Washington Hall, at the springs was well fitted up and furnished to accommodate boarders and transient visitors interested in taking the mineral water internally or bathing in it. He died on May 6, 1850, in Philadelphia, where he had functioned as prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County.<sup>8a</sup> In 1838 the property was sold by the sheriff to Mrs. Holman, who in 1845 disposed of around thirty-seven acres including the hotels and about thirty-four of the "Bath" lots to Dr. George Lingen, whose wife discovered the Diamond Spring. Lingen added a bathhouse for women. During his management women were advised to wear a bathing costume consisting of "a large cotton morning gown of a cashmere shawl pattern, a Greek cap, Turkish slippers, and a pair of pantaloons." In 1847 Lingen sold the property to Henry Neef and Charles F. Hoffendahl.

The Chester County Historical Society has an interesting letter written by Dr. Lingen February 4, 1846, from Chester Springs to William Darlington, his attorney, asking him to draw up the petition for his tavern license so that he could collect signers for it. He mentions the cause of teetotalism in his neighborhood and the violence with which it was proclaimed including the vile and gross language used against him. He believed that the manners and methods of the apostles of teetotalism were contradictory to the doctrines of Christianity and in open violation of the laws of the land. As for himself, he was a strict teetotaler refraining not only from alcoholic stimulants but also from narcotics such as tea, tobacco, opium and coffee. He had no motive advocating even the temperate use of these things further than to vindicate his position as a tavern keeper or as it was called by the sect, a rumseller. If a counter petition was offered against his license he was going to protest in a vigorous manner. He was an advocate of temperance but not of teetotalism; although mortified that circumstances had forced him down to the level of a tavern keeper he believed that a man could give a "high tone of character to any lawful occupation."

Other changes in ownership took place. The property gradually lost its popularity as a watering place, largely on account of its dis-

tance from railroad facilities. It ceased to be kept as such in 1868. In 1869 it was bought by The Chester Springs Soldiers' Orphans' School and Literary Institute. This lasted until 1912.<sup>9</sup> In 1916 the place was bought by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.<sup>9a</sup>

In 1810 when Colonel Bones was running the resort, James Ross, a native of Chester County, wrote a long Latin poem to the "Little Yellow Spring" for Ashbel Green, "Doctor of Sacrosanct Theology," who became the eighth president of the College of New Jersey (Princeton) in 1812. This effusion begins with a tribute to the mild



Costume suggested around 1845 for women bathers at Yellow Springs.

(Designed and sketched about 1950 by Miss C. R. Hunsicker, whose original water color is in the possession of Igho H. Kornbluh, M.D., of Philadelphia.)

and easy-to-taste spring water for those devoid of health. For the drinker and bather all things yielded to the water. The woods, meadows, groves, rills, grains, gardens, fruit trees, the shade, the pastured cattle, and the wandering flocks of birds are sympathetically described and those in failing health, weak in nerves, or with a bad cough, pain in the side, should drink the waters. The spring water is also extolled for its use in pains of the head and stomach, and for catarrh and for those "who have not dared to use a physician's skills." The water

restores the body, refreshes limbs, and "Therefore crowds came: dear wives, young persons, husbands, and old persons, fiancés, boys and girls, sweetly singing."<sup>9</sup> It is doubtful if this Latin ode helped business, otherwise Colonel Bones would not have developed the scheme of building "Bath."

Under the sponsorship of Colonel Bones and Mrs. Holman with their respective interests, Yellow Springs prospered from the 1820s onward. To reach the resort in 1821 from Philadelphia, one had to take a stage which conveyed families and parties at special times and which ran regularly three times weekly from "Thomas Davis's, at the Black Bear." These stages, run by Hollan Bowen, left "every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 7 o'clock A.M., dine at the Ship [tavern], and proceed to the springs same afternoon; return to the Ship same evening, leave the Ship next morning, so as to arrive in the city by 2 o'clock, P.M." From the city to the Ship the fare was \$1.62½ and from thence to the springs, 87½ cents. The Ship tavern was twenty-five miles from Philadelphia.<sup>10</sup> In 1822 George D. Thomas was the proprietor of the Kimberton and Yellow Springs Mail Stage that left Lebo's Hotel in Market Street above Eighth in Philadelphia three mornings each week at eight o'clock during warm weather. If one came from New York City to the springs, the trip had to be made by stages also or on horseback. During the hot weather one can imagine the discomforts of traveling by stage, the lurching of the vehicle, the dust, the bumps in the road, the heat, the horses being changed every ten miles, although a chance to stretch their legs and get a drink of something may have been a relief to many passengers. The Yellow Springs Stage during the summer of 1825 left the Union Hotel, 244 Market Street, Philadelphia, every morning at 6:30. Passengers dined at Wm. Rogers' Boarding School Inn, Kimberton, and proceeded to the springs in the afternoon or in the evening, as they preferred. There were careful drivers and excellent horses, according to the advertisements of the agent in Philadelphia, a Mr. J. Van Buskirk. All baggage was carried at the risk of the owner.<sup>11</sup>

Both Colonel Bones and Mrs. Holman advertised the merits of their hotels. Colonel Bones in 1824 advertised Washington Hall, a one-time government building on the resort, visited by General Washington, which Colonel Bones had prepared for company. It had a wide piazza, an abundance of single and double bedrooms and a spacious hall and dining room. Summerhouses, shaded by trees, had been built on Mount Fayette in the rear where the view was beautiful. The chalybeate springs and bath were in good order.<sup>12</sup> Mrs. Holman, not to be outdone, advised her friends and the public in 1824 of her extensive buildings embracing fifty lodging rooms, two large dining rooms and several parlors, all fitted up in a superior manner. Good servants and choice liquors were mentioned. The mineral springs had a high reputation for their powerful effect in



restoring health and vigor to debilitated persons, and the baths had an additional dressing room for ladies. Roads had been repaired and all in all it was a desirable resort during the warm seasons. Yellow Springs, for the information of strangers, was about twenty-eight miles southwest of Philadelphia and five miles north of the twenty-third milestone on the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, in a highly cultivated country, "beautifully adorned with hill and dale" and delightful rural scenery. Mrs. Holman had built a large three-story house in 1823 containing twenty rooms. This was built so that persons wanting quiet would not be disturbed by the noise of the youthful and gay.<sup>13</sup> All advertising mentioned the time the stages left Philadelphia for the springs and when they returned. Frederick Holman, Mrs. Holman's husband, was the Yellow Springs agent for the Philadelphia and Yellow Springs Stages which left Robert Evans' Inn, 138 Race Street, Philadelphia, three times weekly at 7:30 A.M. and went by way of Norristown, the fare being \$1.00 to Norristown and \$2.00 to Yellow Springs.<sup>14</sup>

Before the Revolution, members of the Pawling family had established a ferry at Pawling's Ford, which was a favorite crossing for Philadelphians traveling to Yellow Springs. The first bridge across the Schuylkill River was built at Pawling's Ford at a cost of over \$15,000, having been authorized by the Pennsylvania Legislature in April, 1809. The bridge was no doubt welcomed by travelers as it eliminated the ferry crossing with its necessary delays.

In 1827 one could travel from Philadelphia to Norristown on the packet boat "Comet," thence by stagecoach. The cabins had been altered so that the ladies' and gentlemen's apartments were entirely separate. Curtains were arranged, outside ones to protect passengers from rain and cold and inside ones to adorn the cabins and shield them from the sun. There were choice liquors to be had at the bar. The schedule was timed to fit the stage routes. The packets left Philadelphia every morning except Wednesday and Friday at six o'clock, and Norristown, every day except Tuesday and Thursday at 2:00 P.M. There were coaches to convey the passengers from Mr. Evans' house in Race Street to Fairmount Dam, from where the boats left to proceed up the Schuylkill River to Norristown during which one could enjoy the beautiful scenery on the way. The "Comet" was described as a beautiful boat with no unpleasant nuisance of furnace and cooking directly behind the ladies' cabin, as on other boats. The ladies liked this pretty barge. Breakfast could be had when the boat reached Manayunk, and dinner at Mrs. Webb's upon arrival at Norristown at ten o'clock, in the morning. Stages left Norristown for Yellow Springs at 2:00 P.M. Mr. Frederick Holman was the agent at Yellow Springs. These boats must have taken a lot of business away from the stages that made the entire trip overland.<sup>15</sup>

Yellow Springs, or as it was changed in 1827 to Chester Springs because Yellow Springs post office in Huntington County had the first right to use that name, had its quota of notable visitors. One of them was DeWitt Clinton, of New York, senator, mayor, governor and promoter of the Erie Canal. Another was the famous statesman, orator and lawyer, Daniel Webster. Jenny Lind, the Swedish nightingale, was supposed to have visited the resort in June, 1851. In July of 1843 Fanny Kemble was there with her children. Philadelphia, with a temperature of 119° F. in the shade, was terrible. The children were pale and languid. The governess was prostrated. The nurse had left. In desperation they went to Yellow Springs where they had a hotel to live in and “dependances.” In spite of half-furnished rooms, lumpy beds, coarse food, noise and confusion, to the children it was heaven and they revived under the influence of bathing in the cool swimming pool, long walks and shade. In August the family was



CHESTER SPRINGS, 1879 OR BEFORE

(Courtesy of the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania.)

back in a boardinghouse in the heat of Philadelphia, dragged there by Pierce Butler, Fanny's husband. After two weeks when they could stand it no longer they went to a farm at West Chester.<sup>16</sup>

Although Fanny Kemble's experience with the hotel facilities of Yellow Springs in 1843 does not coincide with the hotel advertising of the period, it is apparent that the patrons of the resort during her visit were either of a sort who were not overcritical and who were probably accustomed to the type of living that the hotels afforded, or those who could easily withstand inconvenience for the sake of getting away from the hot cities. An earlier generation of wealthy city folks had their own places in the suburbs, but to escape the heat of such comfortable homes during the middle 1800s they flocked to places in

the wilderness, to retreats, to the shore, to mineral springs, away from their own comfortable homes to the discomfort of crowds, dirty table linen; poorly cooked food, insanitary facilities, lumpy beds, and indifferent servants.

In "The Vanishing Spas of Pennsylvania" by Doctors Igho H. Kornblueh and George Morris Piersol, mention is made of a letter of Hannah S. Skelton to Dr. John Morgan in August, 1767, in which Miss Skelton, at Yellow Springs, said, "I have not as yet received any benefit as I can perceive . . . but have done very well since." She wrote of the unpleasant taste of the water, that baths were taken in cold water, and that bathing was done in a natural or excavated deep reservoir or creek with gravel on the bottom. Years later, or in 1855 according to an account of Yellow Springs in the "Philadelphia Argus" of July 6, the writer mentioned the bath of coldest water. This party left the railroad at Phoenixville and then journeyed by stagecoach over "the hilliest and dustiest roads" they had ever encountered and finally dashed up to the Yellow Springs Hotel where they were warmly welcomed by Mrs. Neef. Then follows a glowing account of the watering place where pleasure is closely connected with "health giving applications" of mineral water. "Copious draughts of this delightful liquid will bring the blush of health to the cheeks of pallid beauty and make the muscle fibre tingle with renewed strength. After a plunge in the bath, a mild exercise in the ten pin alley and a climb to the summit of the hill that rises almost perpendicularly" one was ready for the good food supplied by Mrs. Neef. In the paper by Doctors Kornblueh and Piersol, one will find the 1952 analyses of the three springs, the iron spring, the sulphur spring and the diamond spring.<sup>17</sup>

In 1853 Yellow Springs was advertised by M. L. Neef, a later owner, as having in addition to its pure and chalybeate fountains, its facilities for bathing, its hot, cold, plunge, shower, sitz, douche, and other baths, such amusements as music, dancing, billiards, fishing, promenades, etc., and a table supplied with the luxuries of the season. During the winter the buildings were repaired and additions made. No longer were the stages advertised, as the Reading Railroad ran trains to the springs twice daily at a one-way price of \$1.00.

There were five principal springs on the place. Two on the hilltop supplied pure drinking water. The important mineral spring, a chalybeate one, was in the meadow in front of the hotel. In the early days it flowed from a rock into a reservoir of white marble and then into a bathing pool. The various baths for plunging and for showers were built-up pools or basins a few feet in depth into which the patient squatted in the water for ten or fifteen minutes or until comfortably chilled by its temperature of around fifty-five degrees. Small rooms for dressing purposes were nearby. At Yellow Springs there was a "Transparent bath" surrounded by a stone wall twelve feet high.



This was eight and a half feet square and four feet deep. The bottom was covered with fine, blue gravel through which the spring bubbled in various places. The Diamond Spring and the Jenny Lind Spring, so named after Jenny's visit in 1851, had bathing and plunging facilities. The waters as stated in 1810 benefited "rheumatic and nervous affections, palsy, hysteria, epilepsy, obstructions of the liver and spleen and all complaints accompanied by general debility and languor."<sup>2</sup> And these words originally came from the mouths of the physicians and were not thought up by resort proprietors, who used them however to their great advantage.

In 1857 Mrs. Ann Holman, as proprietor, advertised the "Cottage Building at Yellow Springs" as being open for the accommodation of a limited number of boarders, according to the notice of August 5. Application was to be made to Ann Holman at Chester Springs, Chester County, Pennsylvania.<sup>18</sup> In 1859 Susan R. Snyder took possession of Yellow Springs from a Philadelphia company<sup>19</sup> and in 1867 the name of A. U. Snyder was signed to a newspaper notice advising that Yellow or Chester Springs would be open to visitors on June 15. Access was by the Pennsylvania Railroad to the steamboat station daily at "8 o'clock A.M., and on Saturday by the 4 o'clock P.M. train."<sup>20</sup>

#### FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER XVI

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9. J. Smith Futhy and Gilbert Cope, *History of Chester County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia, 1881).
- 9a. Anon. "The Yellow Springs Property in New Hands," *Daily Local News* (W. Chester, Pa.), July 21, 1916.
10. *Aurora* (Philadelphia), August 2, 1821.
11. *The Saturday Evening Post* (Philadelphia), June 25, 1825.
12. *National Gazette and Literary Register*, July 10, 1824.
13. *Ibid.*, July 8, 1823.
14. *Ibid.*, July 24, 1827.
15. *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, June 1, August 8, 1827.
16. Margaret Armstrong, *Fanny Kemble, A Passionate Victorian* (New York, 1938).
17. Igho Kornbluh and Geo. Morris Piersol, "The Vanishing Spas of Pennsylvania," *Trans. & Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia*, 4 Ser., Vol. 21, No. 3, August, 1953-February, 1954.
18. *North American and United States Gazette*, August 5, 1857.
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20. *The Press* (Philadelphia, Pa.), July 9, 1867.

## CHAPTER XVII

### Brandywine Springs, Delaware

A tract of land (eighty acres) known as Yellow Springs was to be put up for sale on September 11, 1816, according to the August 1 "Delaware Gazette" of that year. This property, owned by Holton Yarnall, was situated in Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. In addition to its other conveniences, the property embraced a "noted chalybeate spring," important to anyone "wishing to enjoy health, pleasure and convenience." Yarnall ran a tavern, the Conestoga Wagon, whose customers were accustomed to drinking liquids more potent than iron water. In 1822 Yarnall again offered his property at a private sale and stressed its situation as five miles from Wilmington and its chalybeate spring as within one hundred and fifty yards of the turnpike. Much advertising space was devoted to the medicinal value of the spring waters, the possibility of creating a resort for valetudinarians and weakly persons suffering from various kinds of debility and the supposition that if bathing and showering facilities were provided the tonic and bracing qualities of the water would be resorted to by citizens of Philadelphia, Baltimore and Wilmington. Yarnall was even willing to sell four or five acres, including the spring, so great was his need for money to meet a six hundred pound mortgage. The mortgagor's executor took the debt into court and obtained a judgment of \$3,200 against Yarnall, which he could not pay. As a result the sheriff sold the property on July 9, 1827, to William Seal, president of the Bank of Wilmington and Brandywine for \$2,805, the highest price that was bid. A few days later Seal sold the property for \$2,805 to the Brandywine Chalybeate Springs Company. This company, consisting of a group of Wilmington businessmen, decided in 1825 to go into the health resort business, and on January 3, 1826, they petitioned the General Assembly for approval to form a corporation, buy land, and build a hotel. On January 24, 1826, a law was passed favoring their incorporation, capitalized at \$25,000, and permitting them to issue shares of stock at \$100 each. After acquiring the land the company borrowed \$20,000 from the Delaware Fire Insurance Company recently capitalized at \$100,000. The president of the fire insurance company who authorized the loan was William Seal. Three of the directors of the fire insurance company were also among the organizers of the spring company. Work on the spa hotel had started before the company was in complete possession of the property, but now it was speeded up.

## BRANDYWINE CHALYBEATE SPRINGS.



The spacious and elegant House belonging to the Company, which was completed last Fall, is now open and handsomely furnished for the reception of visitors and boarders, under the superintendence of the subscriber.

This WATERING PLACE is finely situated in the high and healthy country five miles west of Wilmington, commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country, the River Delaware, and the neighbouring States. The grounds of the Company afford pleasant and shady promenades, and are bounded by fine streams.

The virtues of the water are those of the purest Chalybeate according to the analysis of Professor Keating of Philadelphia. They have been particularly efficacious in bilious and other fevers, and are celebrated as a fine tonic.

The vicinity to Wilmington offers at all times access to an excellent market; and the daily intercourse by steamboat lines between that place and Newcastle, to and from Philadelphia and Baltimore, affords a facility of communication not possessed by any other watering place.

Parties can be accommodated at a short notice with Dinners, Collations, Ice Creams, &c.

No exertion shall be spared by the proprietor to gratify every want of the visiter to this pleasant and salubrious retreat.

Charges will be moderate.

**CHARLES STANLEY.**

N.B Carriages, Gigs, or Horses may always be had: and there are delightful rides over good roads to the neighbouring towns, villages, canal, &c. Horses taken at livery.

C. S.

June 1. 1827.

(June 15--fm2m

## BRANDYWINE CHALYBEATE SPRINGS

(From the "National Gazette and Literary Register," Philadelphia, Pa., of July 30, 1827.)

By June 19, 1827, the place was open for business. A tenant, one Charles Stanley, was in charge. He advertised the virtues of the water, which according to William Hypolitus Keating, professor of mineralogy and chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania, was "of the purest Chalybeate" and particularly efficacious in bilious and other fevers. The hotel was "spacious and elegant" and the grounds of the resort afforded pleasant and shady promenades. Parties were accommodated at short notice with dinners, collations, ice creams, etc. The spa was easy to reach by steamboat between



Philadelphia or Baltimore and Wilmington and from Wilmington to Newcastle.<sup>1</sup> Special entertainments were provided. "The American Watchman & Delaware Advertiser" of August 14, 1827, announced a concert to be given by a guitarist and violinist. No admission fee was charged. The artist depended entirely upon the generosity of the audience. During the 1829 season, a Mr. Wilson was manager. In the "Delaware Register" for August 29, he announced a grand concert and ball at Wilson's Hotel at which performers from London were to give a vocal and instrumental concert on September 3. Dancing was to start at nine-thirty o'clock. Tickets were \$1.00 and these could be obtained from Mr. Wilson at the bar.

Before the 1830 season had opened, new guest rooms had been added to the hotel and the piazza was lengthened. For this the company borrowed \$3,600 from the Delaware Fire Insurance Company and a group of Philadelphians which included Matthew Newkirk. James H. Page, former manager of Bedford Springs, was the new manager. The season was extended to November 1. The hotel charges at this time were \$1.50 per day and 62½ cents for a dinner. During the 1832 season, there were numerous visitors from near and far. A family could leave the springs at seven o'clock, after breakfast, for New Castle, proceed on the railroad to Frenchtown and return to the springs, without fatigue, for dinner at two o'clock, a distance of forty-seven miles. Although there was a large and interesting company at the springs during the 1832 season, there was still room for forty or fifty more guests in the spacious hotel.<sup>2</sup> And chalybeate waters were still recommended by prominent physicians for relieving rheumatism, ulcers, scrofula, and jaundice.

During the July, 1834 season there were about 130 guests at dinner each day. Louis McLane, late secretary of State under President Andrew Jackson, and his family took lodgings for the balance of the summer. The Spanish Legation had engaged rooms. There were some of Baltimore's distinguished families at the hotel. Dr. Joseph Hartshorne of Philadelphia and his family had been there and had left, but not before expressing his opinion that the atmosphere of the resort could not be surpassed in our country. In fact since July 1 there had been a succession of the most respectable visitors.<sup>3</sup> The tables in the great refectory could seat 150 guests at one time. These were long, banquet-type tables.

An item in "The National Gazette and Literary Register" (Philadelphia) for July 19, 1834, included among the highly respected guests of Brandywine Springs, "the Chargé d'Affaires of Brazil, His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, the Hon. Mr. Wilde of Georgia, Judges Hemphill and Smith of Philadelphia, and many other members of the first circles of Baltimore and Philadelphia. A band of music played every evening in the ballroom and riding horses from the Baltimore circus were used by the belles during the cool hours of the day.

After six summers of operation, Brandywine Springs with its good chalybeate waters, its excellent food, its facilities for restful living and the satisfaction of its guests, failed to show a profit, and the company was not able to meet its obligations. Its loan of 1827 with interest was still unpaid, and the Delaware Fire Insurance Company brought a civil suit against the Brandywine Chalybeate Springs Company. At a public sale on August 10, 1833, the holdings of the Company were bought for \$15,500 by Matthew Newkirk of Philadelphia, one of the richest men in the city. Newkirk immediately hired Thomas U. Walter, a famous architect, to improve and beautify the grounds of the resort; running water was introduced into the hotel, to fountains, and to circular marble basins stocked with goldfish; artistic birdbaths of marble, connected with the water system, were placed on the grounds; linden trees were planted, also shrubs and flowers; paths were bordered



A picture postcard view of the hotel at Brandywine Springs in Delaware taken from about 1905 to 1910 when it served principally as a summer boardinghouse.

with suitable plants; hot and cold baths were installed in a stone bathhouse; and the stone hotel was completely enlarged to accommodate 300 guests, and also refurnished. There were billiard tables, quoit grounds, pigeon shooting grounds, fishing grounds, a beautiful building containing a miniature Fairmount waterworks which supplied spring water to the entire establishment, a stable for fifty horses and vehicles. These were the facilities available and advertised anew in 1839 by James Sanderson, formerly of the Merchants' Hotel in Philadelphia, who had also engaged W. H. Russell of Boston as steward, James Seymour, office manager, and J. B. Dobney in charge of dancing and music, assisted by "a very superior band of music." The best French cook of Philadelphia had charge of the kitchen.



Newkirk for his personal use had a house that was a facsimile of the hotel. On each side, in architectural conformity, was a smaller cottage for each of his daughters. He had converted Brandywine Springs into a resort exclusively for refined, intellectual and aristocratic families of the period. With his prominence in public affairs he had made social contacts with important people in Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore and Washington, and there was no doubt about the prestige and fashionable tone of Newkirk's spa, something that had been lacking formerly. Foreign diplomats, senators, congressmen, jurists, the military, could be encountered there. Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, James Buchanan, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and others of like ilk are said to have enjoyed the meals there, the music and other diversions, and the belles, if not the chalybeate waters which declined in importance. The tobacco and cotton planters of Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia and Tennessee arrived in four-horse coaches with their negro servants. Others came up the Chesapeake by steamboat to Frenchtown, Maryland, and finished their journey by stage. All were accompanied by mountains of baggage. Bourbon whiskey and mint juleps were poured down thirsty throats. The southern girls and their boy friends danced and rode horseback. Their mothers relaxed, gossiped and did needlework on the piazza.

The panic of 1837 and the business depression that followed deprived many of the resorts' steady customers, especially those of Philadelphia, of funds for long summer vacations. Along with other businesses the spas of the country suffered during the recession. Brandywine Springs during these times were leased to some twelve different experienced hotel men who advertised the springs, the hotel advantages, the balls, the amusements, the scenery, the choice wines and liquors, etc., in various local and out-of-state newspapers. They started polka balls to attract Philadelphians; Henry Clay, Daniel Webster and others spoke at political rallies at the resort; but the numbers of guests declined. In 1847 "The New York Herald" of June 26 printed a "letter" supposedly from a visitor to Brandywine Springs. This anonymous person in a friendly vein referred to the Springs as "a little world of fun, gossip, sociability, fashion, ten-strikes, sherry-cobblers, love making, politics and religion." Owing to inclement weather the guests were not so numerous, but fifty more were expected in a few days, at which time there would be between eighty and one hundred. The hotel had cost about \$45,000 and was one of the finest country houses the writer had ever seen. It had a piazza thirty feet wide all around it. One hundred acres of ground were laid out handsomely. The springs were chalybeate and sulphur. Both had rare medicinal properties. Invalids had partaken of their waters for more than fifty years. If one could dwell near the springs and drink freely one might live forever. There were amusements galore, archery, tenpins, pistol shooting, fishing, driving, music, danc-



ing, etc., etc., etc. But even when business became normal again people, rich and poor, preferred to travel by train to the seashore, mountains, lakes and distant places.

During the summer of 1848 the place was being run by James A. Serverson and Isaac H. Register, one for many years proprietor of the Indian King Hotel in Wilmington, and the other of the Steamboat Hotel in New Castle. According to the "Public Ledger" (Philadelphia) of June 6, 1848, persons requiring rooms were to call at the Columbia House in Philadelphia.

Matthew Newkirk was aware by 1853 that as a watering place Brandywine Springs was finished, and he leased it to Captain Alden Partridge who on May 16, 1853, opened his "National Military School" there. However, during the holiday recess a fire started in the hotel on the night of December 9, 1853. By 11:00 P.M., everything that was flammable had disappeared. So ended the palatial hotel that Newkirk's money had erected. Partridge had, previous to the fire, made arrangements to move his school to a new location, in Bristol, Pennsylvania, but he died suddenly on January 16, 1854, at his home in Norwich, Vermont, and this ended any future plans for the school. Newkirk on February 3, 1855, sold the property and buildings to George Trotter, a Philadelphia merchant, for \$15,000, and he on April 12, 1855, conveyed the sixty-acre property to Peter Coyle for \$5,000. Peter Coyle, a Philadelphia hotelkeeper, moved to Delaware and with the expenditure of a comparatively small sum made changes and promoted the use of the property as a picnic ground for a small fee. In the "Pennsylvania Inquirer" of July 30, 1858, he advertised the opening of his summer resort on June 16, and stated that the buildings had been enlarged and the grounds improved. The plunge bath and private baths were in order. There was room for 150 persons and all the furniture was new. When Coyle took over he connected Newkirk's former home with the cottages on each side of it, and this served as a boardinghouse, which he called the Brandywine Springs Hotel. Peter Coyle's investment turned out to be a failure. During the Civil War period, the property depreciated and was finally sold by the sheriff for \$9,350 to Franklin Fell, who wanted to do something for the Episcopal Church. He spent \$7,000 putting the place into shape for "The Protestant Episcopal Seminary for Young Ladies at Brandywine Springs," with the understanding that the Church would establish the school by raising \$15,000 more through subscription. His offer was accepted on December 1, 1870, by the trustees, and rejected on January 13, 1871.

It appears that the hotel was without a tenant during 1871 and 1872. In 1873 Fell leased the property to Mrs. Jennie A. Moore, an Episcopalian of Philadelphia, from June 9, 1873, to March 25, 1874, for a rental of \$400 plus one-fifth of the cost of the furniture supplied by Fell. Mrs. Moore lost money and did not take the hotel for the

following season. However, on May 24, 1874, Fell leased the property to Col. H. W. Sawyer, proprietor of the Clayton House in Wilmington, for \$500. After a season or two it was empty again. Col. Henry Washington Sawyer had a distinguished military career in the Union Army during the Civil War. This involved confinement in Libby Prison under a death sentence, and liberation in exchange for the son of General Robert E. Lee, a prisoner of the Union forces. In 1867 Colonel Sawyer became the proprietor of the Ocean House in Cape May, New Jersey, where he remained until April, 1873, when he moved to Wilmington, Delaware, and became the proprietor of the Clayton House, which he ran for nearly three years. Returning to Cape May, he built the Chalfonte, which he managed for several years before selling it.<sup>4</sup> The Ocean House burned in a disastrous fire on November 9, 1878, which involved thirty-five acres in the heart of Cape May. Nine hotels, thirty boardinghouses, two thousand bathhouses and various business houses and cottages were destroyed. Colonel Sawyer, proprietor of the Chalfonte, noticed smoke arising from the Ocean House and gave the alarm. General Sewell, at Camden, New Jersey, upon receipt of a telegram from Mayor Williams, dispatched a special train carrying a steam engine and a supply of hose to Cape May.<sup>5</sup>

It would be of interest to follow the history of the resort in its further misfortunes when it was a summer boardinghouse property, then a summer amusement park with concessions, fed by special trains and trolley cars, with its trolley accident, its fifth fire and a murder, but these are happenings outside the scope of this book and for such information and also more historical details of Brandywine Springs, one is referred to the excellent account by C. A. Weslager. The chalybeate waters still emerge from the ground coloring the vegetation and stagnant pools with their yellowish deposit.<sup>6</sup>

Although Mr. Weslager's book was written solely to preserve the history of Brandywine Springs, it had other effects not anticipated by him. He has advised us that after his book appeared it was used as a guide by visitors to the park area who in turn aroused the curiosity of nearby residents who were not familiar with the historical background of their neighborhood. As a result, the Brandywine Springs Association was organized on February 19, 1950. On January 9, 1951, Mr. Weslager spoke at a public meeting sponsored by the organization, outlining the historical background of the site. The organization purchased copies of Mr. Weslager's book for distribution to the members of the General Assembly, and as a result of its additional efforts and publicity to make Brandywine Springs a state park, the General Assembly at its 1951 session appropriated \$45,000 to buy fifty-seven acres, and the property was put under the control of the State Park Commission. Subsequently, additional state funds were obtained for shelter, parking and picnic facilities, and also for

a director, and although more remains to be done, much progress has been made and the facilities are being enjoyed by the public.

A memorial to the wealthy Philadelphian, Matthew Newkirk, although not intended as such, stands on Mercer Street, Princeton, New Jersey, some distance away from the street. It is a stately portico of Carrara marble, patterned after the Erechtheum, a temple situated on the Acropolis, which was built in Philadelphia in 1836 by the architect, Thomas Ustick Walter, as a façade for the Philadelphia home of Matthew Newkirk. In 1868 the house was sold to the Society of the Sons of St. George. In 1901 when the building was demolished the portico was bought by H. B. Owsley, who after having it dismantled moved it from the city on barges on the Delaware and Raritan canal to Princeton, from where it was transported by sled to its location on Mercer Street, where it graced the home of Mr. Owsley. In 1956 the Institute for Advanced Study acquired the Owsley property. It demolished the house but left the portico standing. Several agencies would like to have the portico, but the cost of moving it is a prohibitive sum.<sup>7</sup>

#### FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER XVII

1. *National Gazette and Literary Register*, July 30, 1827.
2. *Ibid.*, July 11, 1832.
3. *Ibid.*, July 19, 1834.
4. Lewis Townsend Stevens, *The History of Cape May County, New Jersey* (Cape May City, 1897), pp. 316-324.
5. *A Book of Cape May, New Jersey* (Cape May, N. J., 1937), pp. 110-111.
6. C. A. Weslager, *Brandywine Springs* (Wilmington, 1949). To this book we are greatly indebted for most of the information herewith presented except that referred to in footnotes 1, 2, 3.
7. *The Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine*, April 27, 1958.



## CHAPTER XVIII

### The Early Classification of Mineral Waters and Their Early Analyses

For our purpose it is not necessary to go into the chemical classification of mineral waters extensively. The German classification recognized: I, Alkaline, subdivided into simple carbonated alkaline, and alkaline and common salt; II, Glauber salt; III, Iron, divided into pure, alkaline and saline, and earthy and saline; IV, Common salt, subdivided into simple, concentrated and with bromine or iodine; V, Epsom salt; VI, Sulphur; VII, Earthy and calcareous.

A French classification recognized mineral waters as: I, Sulphur, divided into those with salts of sodium, and those with salts of lime; II, Chloride of sodium, divided into simple, with carbonates, and sulphuretted; III, Bicarbonated, subdivided into bicarbonate of soda, bicarbonate of lime, and mixed bicarbonates; IV, Sulphated, further divided into sulphate of soda, sulphate of lime, sulphate of magnesia, and mixed sulphates; V, Ferrugineous, divided into bicarbonated, sulphated, and with magnesium salts.

As such classifications did not give any idea of the medical action of the waters, Walton proposed his own classification which embraced both the chemical and therapeutic systems. In other words, the waters of each of his classes were supposed to have a similar action, varying only to a minor degree. Because of the variations in the amounts of some ingredients, it was sometimes difficult to assign a spring to a particular class. Walton's classification embraced the following classes of waters: I, Alkaline, consisting of pure, acidulous (carbonic acid), and muriated (sodium chloride); II, Saline, including pure, alkaline, and iodo-bromated; III, Sulphur, divided into alkaline, saline (sodium chloride), and calcic; IV, Chalybeate, subdivided into pure, alkaline, saline (sodium chloride), calcic, aluminous; V, Purgative including Epsom salt (sulphate of magnesia), Glauber salt (sulphate of sodium), alkaline; VI, Calcic, subdivided into limestone (carbonate of lime), and gypsum (sulphate of lime); VII, Thermal, divided into pure, alkaline, saline (sodium chloride), sulphur and calcic.<sup>1</sup>

The early authors had very little to say about dosages based on the mineralization of the waters. W. E. Fitch suggested a chemical classification as follows, based on the total saline content of the waters.<sup>2</sup>

Parts per 1,000,000

80	.....	Lightly mineralized
400	.....	Moderately mineralized
2,000	.....	Moderately highly mineralized
10,000	.....	Highly mineralized
50,000	.....	Very highly mineralized

## Gases Found in Mineral Water

Of the gases found in mineral waters, carbonic acid gas ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) occurs in varying amounts in most cold springs. In some areas it is generated by the action of acids upon limestone or other carbonate rocks, and in other cases by the decomposition of organic matter. Its presence gives a sparkle to the water. Next to carbonic acid gas, hydrogen sulphide ( $\text{H}_2\text{S}$ ) occurs as an important constituent in a large number of cold and hot springs. Although usually present in a free state, it occurs frequently in combinations with sodium, potassium, calcium or magnesium. This gas, which has a rotten egg odor, arises from the decomposition of sulphides, or from the reaction between alkaline sulphates and hydrocarbonaceous matter in the strata. Oxygen is present in all surface and ground waters. Nitrogen in the form of ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) occurs in water as nitrates or nitrites. Like oxygen, it is absorbed from the atmosphere by water. In the free gaseous state it is chemically inert and does not influence the character of the water.<sup>2</sup>

## Chemical Constituents of Mineral Springs

Carbonates are found in nearly all mineral springs, in some in large amounts. If they are carbonates of potassium, sodium, magnesium or lithium, the water is alkaline. If the base of the carbonate is lime, the waters are calcareous. The alkaline carbonates are formed by the passage of carbonated waters over rocks containing alkaline silicates. In the presence of a large amount of carbonic acid, bicarbonates are produced and these are readily dissolved.

Sulphates, such as those of sodium sulphate (Glauber salt), and magnesium sulphate (Epsom salt), are often found in mineral waters to which they impart a bitter taste and a purgative action. Sulphate of lime or gypsum, not being very soluble in water, is not present in mineral water in large amounts. Other sulphates not common to mineral waters are those of potash, iron and aluminum. Epsom salt was originally prepared from a spring of that name in England. It is a mild purgative.

Chlorides of sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium and iron, being largely a part of the composition of rocks, soil, vegetable and animal life, are present in practically all mineral waters in quantities varying from small to large amounts. Chloride of sodium, or common

salt, is found in comparatively large quantities in spring waters. Chloride of potassium is found in only small quantities. Chloride of magnesium, the "bittern" of saltworks, occurs in many mineral waters. Calcium chloride, being readily soluble, occurs mainly in saline waters. Other constituents of mineral waters, found usually in minute quantities, are iodides of potassium and sodium, bromide of magnesium, phosphates, silicates (found in almost all springs), fluoride salts, nitrates, etc., and organic substances.<sup>1</sup>

### Analyses of Mineral Waters

One of the early analyses of the waters of a mineral spring was made by Dr. John De Normandie and reported in two letters dated September 10, 1768, and October 6, 1769, addressed to Dr. Thomas Bond, one of the vice presidents of the American Philosophical Society.<sup>3</sup> Dr. De Normandie performed certain experiments upon the chalybeate waters of Bristol, Pennsylvania, in order to determine if they contained ingredients that might be beneficial in the cure of diseases. He found that a small piece of oak bark infused in the water resulted in a change from transparency to a dark purple color. Some of the water, after being heated or exposed to air for a few hours, lost a great part of its iron taste. "Ol. Tart. pr. deliq" dropped in the water induced a change in color. It became somewhat yellow and after some time there was a yellow precipitate in the bottom of the glass. Sixteen ounces of the water evaporated to dryness in a china bowl in "B. M. left one gram of a yellowish brown powder of the taste of tart. tartariz." Linen moistened with the scum on top of the spring became tinged with "a strong iron mold." The weight of the water was similar to that of rain water. As a result of his experiments he concluded that the spring water contained "a large portion of iron dissolved in pure water by means of an acid, which acid is extremely volatile, and probably of the vitriolic kind."

Additional separate experiments were made and reported in his second letter to Dr. Bond. He added Sp. Sal. Arom. to the water and obtained a slight effervescence, and upon standing an hour a light yellow scum floated on top of the water. Upon mixing the spring water with lime water, a similar separation took place, but the scum settled to the bottom. Powdered chalk added to the water resulted in the same separation, but not in such a short time. The residue, after a slight calcination, "was strongly attracted by the Magnet." A solution of crude sal ammoniac mixed with the spring water was succeeded by the same appearance as when lime water was added. The residue, after evaporation in Baln. Mar. before calcination, had a salty taste and left a coldness on the tongue. When separated by solution, filtration and evaporation, it resembled the color "of salt of amber," and "shott into right angled crystals." Under a microscope



these appeared "beautifully feathered," and "from every experiment was found perfectly neutral." Silver immersed for a time in the water acquired a slight yellow color. The residue of the water thrown upon a red hot iron sparkled and gave forth an odor of sulphur. Spring water and a solution of the crystallized salt changed syrup of violets to a fine light green color. From his first four experiments he concluded that the waters were impregnated with much iron. From his remaining experiments he drew conclusions, based principally upon speculation, which are of no interest to this account.

In 1773, "Experiments and Observations on the Mineral Waters of Philadelphia, Abington and Bristol," by Benjamin Rush, was published in Philadelphia. At the time Dr. Rush was professor of chemistry in the College of Philadelphia. This paper outlines the results of adding various substances to samples of water from the three springs, these substances being tincture of galls, syrup of violets, soapy water, skimmed and boiled milk, tincture of rhubarb, vitriolic acid, nitrous acid, marine acid (hydrochloric acid), spirit of wine, spirit of hartshorn, spirit of sal ammoniac, solution of vegetable alkali, caustic alkali, lime water, sugar of lead, and solutions of lead in nitrous acid, of silver in nitrous acid, of blue vitriol, of corrosive sublimate, and of alum. The effects of these after being added to the samples of spring waters were noted as changes in color, turbidity, or no changes at all. All the mineral waters deposited a sediment when boiled. These sediments appeared to be iron ochre and common salt.

As a result of his experiments, Dr. Rush concluded that the three mineral waters contained iron without the intervention of an acid, an alkali, or fixed air (carbon dioxide). Because all the waters had a briskness and an exhilarating effect on the spirits he concluded that they contained a greater quantity of elastic air than common water.

The experiments performed by Dr. Samuel L. Mitchill upon the water of the chalybeate spring on Schooley's Mountain in New Jersey in 1810 were somewhat of the same character as the ones performed by Dr. De Normandie and Dr. Rush.<sup>4</sup> By 1817, however, with the appearance of a book by Dr. William Meade entitled, *An Experimental Inquiry into the Chemical Properties and Medicinal Qualities of the Principal Mineral Waters of Ballston and Saratoga, in the State of New-York* (Philadelphia, 1817), a more satisfactory way of reporting upon the chemical constituents of mineral waters appeared. A favorable review of this book in "The Port Folio" (Philadelphia) of July, 1817, remarked that no physician could safely prescribe mineral waters until he had an accurate knowledge of their chemical contents and that Dr. Meade's book should serve as a model for future publications. Dr. Meade in his work presented a synoptical table showing the contents of Ballston and Saratoga waters in comparison with certain noted springs in England and Germany. Carbonic acid gas,

azotic gas (nitrogen) and sulphurated hydrogen gas are reported in terms of cubic inches, and muriate of soda, muriate of lime, muriate of magnesia, carbonate of lime, carbonate of magnesia, carbonate of iron, sulphate of magnesia, sulphate of soda, and sulphate of lime are reported in terms of grains per one quart of water. When William James McNeven reported upon the mineral water at Schooley's Mountain, New Jersey, in 1828, he followed the same procedure.<sup>5</sup>

An analysis of White Sulphur water made in 1842 by Mr. Augustus A. Hayes was reported as follows. One gallon or 237 cubic inches contained 16.739 cubic inches of gas, i.e., nitrogen, 4.680; oxygen, 0.498; carbon dioxide, 11.290. Fifty thousand grains of the water contained 115.735 grains of solid matter consisting of sulphate of lime, 67.168; sulphate of magnesium, 30.364; chloride of magnesium, 0.859; carbonate of lime, 6.060; organic matter, 3.740; carbonic acid, 4.584; and silicates such as those of potash, soda, magnesia, and a trace of oxide of iron to the extent of 2.960 grains.<sup>6</sup>

#### FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER XVIII

1. George E. Walton, *The Mineral Springs of the United States and Canada* (New York, 1873).
2. William Edward Fitch, *Mineral Waters of the United States and American Spas* (Philadelphia, 1927).
3. *Trans. Amer. Philos. Soc.*, 2nd ed., I, 369-370, 1789.
4. Samuel L. Mitchill, *A Concise Description of Schooley's Mountain in New-Jersey with some experiments on the water of its Chalybeate Spring* (New York, 1810).
5. Samuel L. Mitchill and William James McNeven, *A Chymical Examination of the Mineral Water of Schooley's Mountain, etc.* (Morristown, N. J., 1828).
6. J. J. Moorman, *The Mineral Waters of the United States and Canada* (Baltimore, Md., 1867).

## CHAPTER XIX

### The Decline of the American Spa

The spas of Europe have been in use for more than two thousand years, and although Galenic principles ruled medicine for a period of almost fifteen centuries, until they were challenged by Paracelsus who taught the new theory that the activities of the human body were chemical and that health depended upon the proper chemical composition of the organs and fluids, and although other theories in medicine had their vogue until the development of a science based upon anatomy and other natural sciences, during the whole period of such times patients bathed in and drank the mineral waters of the spas and were "benefited" by them.<sup>1</sup> A comparable state of affairs never developed in the United States, although this country is rich in mineral springs as good as those in Europe.

The well-to-do colonists of America did not fully patronize their watering places until around 1760. Stafford Springs in Connecticut had a reputation for curing gout, sterility, pulmonary hysterics, and other maladies. Sick and wealthy New Englanders flocked to it and although other mineral springs were discovered at Mansfield, Connecticut, and Boston, Massachusetts, Stafford Springs remained the most popular watering place, some visitors coming from as far away as the West Indies. Mineral springs in Virginia and Pennsylvania were frequented by white settlers as early as 1748, and of course all such springs were discovered and used by the Indians long before white settlers arrived. Thousands of colonists visited mineral springs before the Revolution, some to escape the heat of the summer, some for the therapeutic value of the waters, some because they had acquired sufficient wealth, and its accompanying leisure, to want to display it, some because they liked to travel and play and meet other persons of equal social standing. The better roads, more stage lines and packet sailings contributed enormously to the annual trek to the springs.

Everyone believed that the waters had medicinal value, whether bathed in or swallowed. Prominent physicians had endorsed them and even though such endorsements were accompanied by warnings not to expect the impossible, little attention was paid to such advice. The colonists, moreover, especially in New England, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, knew of the famous health-giving waters of their mother country and of similar waters on the European continent. In other words, they were already conditioned to the value of mineral springs and did not have to be convinced. Nearly everyone benefited from a rest and vacation in the country, especially when they could mingle



with other gentry not diluted too much by inferior people. As a result they returned home mentally and physically improved, with less provincialism than before, and with more appreciation of their interests in common with other colonial inhabitants.<sup>2</sup>

The popularity of American spas continued as facilities for travel increased, and persons of moderate means as well as the wealthy and fashionable visited the springs and partook of the waters. Their peak of popularity took place around the middle of the nineteenth century. Their fame, however, depended less upon the medical value of their waters and more upon the opportunities the patrons had for indulging in such pastimes as betting on horse races, drinking, gambling, theatres, balls, and other entertainments, in which at some spas millionaires, adventurers, and high-priced courtesans participated. Luxurious hotels, parks and casinos were filled with the rich and idle at the most popular watering places because it was fashionable to go there and be seen.<sup>1</sup> When a watering place became too fashionable the invalids deserted it. They liked the company of other invalids.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century the attraction of the watering places declined. Some no longer were popular even before that time. Empty hotels fell into disrepair and were closed. Many spas were abandoned. Other competing resorts, especially seaside ones, were attracting the public. Along in the 1890s physicians were being trained in laboratories and hospitals, and medicine was changing to scientific aspects. American medicine paid little or no serious attention to health resorts.<sup>1</sup> In 1880 a committee of the American Medical Association reported on sanatoria and on mineral springs of the United States. Their report is a classification of the leading mineral springs of the country, for which reliable analyses were published, arranged in accordance with the characteristics of the waters such as acidulus, saline, alkaline, chalybeate, etc. The committee stated that the material did not exist for a complete study of the clinical effects and value of the mineral springs of North America. Competent resident physicians were absent from the springs. There was no supervision of people taking the "cures" or of their mode of living. The sanatoria were conducted by independent and uncontrolled individuals and the committee was unwilling to recommend any place as being specially adapted for the climatic treatment of phthisis, a subject upon which they were asked to report. They believed that the benefits derived from mineral waters were partly due to the influence of the minerals in the waters, but partly also to bracing climate, change of scenery, simple habits of living, etc. They also noted that the waters of some springs famous for their healing properties contained chemical substances in amounts not much greater than those present in ordinary drinking waters.<sup>3</sup>

A committee of the American Climatological Association appointed in 1886 made an attempt, by questionnaires, to get some new data

on the physiological action of mineral waters in the United States. About three-fourths of the answers were made by hotel proprietors. No information was received on the physiological effects of the waters on the natural functions of life as indicated by the pulse, or any change in the quantity or quality of the secretions, by the appetite, etc. A question asking the method of using the waters in each class of diseases was largely ignored. In other words, not much information of value was brought out.<sup>4</sup>

The Committee Upon Health Resorts of the American Climatological Association reported in 1895 and 1896 upon the altitude, humidity, daily temperatures, winds, fogs, sunny days, hotels, boardinghouses, attractions, etc., this information having been collected to enable the physician to select the climate best adapted to the needs of particular patients.<sup>5</sup>

Thus it is apparent that during the period of these reports the American doctor had no information about the effects of mineral waters that would inspire confidence, and medical research was directed to other channels. The waters of the privately owned spas were nearly always advertised as cure-alls. The treatment of chronic diseases in spas occupied too much time for most Americans who wanted to be cured quickly.

Popular newspaper articles occasionally poked fun at mineral springs. In the "West Jersey Press" (Camden, N. J.) of July 31, 1878, an account headed. "Owotahox Springs," July 29, and signed "Invalid," dwelt at length upon the sanitarium and springs supposed to be in "Genisee" County, New York. The sanitarium was full of monomaniacs, sane enough on ordinary topics but off their rockers on some particular subject. The waters of the Owotahox Springs were taken internally for a variety of disorders, such as phthisis, coryza, toothache, cerebro spinal meningitis, headache, hiccough, summer complaint, and king's evil, also all diseases of the head, thorax and abdomen. The baths were supposed to be beneficial for rickets, tumors, cancers, fractures, in-growing toenails, and all skin diseases pronounced incurable by regular physicians. Some patients at Owotahox were so delicate that they could not take full-strength baths. For them there was a glass bathhouse. The patient sat inside and a solution of one pint of spring water to a hogshead of rain water was played with a hose on the glass outside. If the sun shone on the patient through the water as it ran down the glass window, a blue curtain was drawn across the window so as to dilute the water rays and break their force. Lung affections were treated by means of an atomizer. A two-inch pipe threw a stream of the spring water against a rapidly revolving disk which hurled it back as a fine spray and disseminated it throughout a small apartment. Patients wishing to inhale the water sat on a wooden bench facing the machine. With their eyes shut, and their open mouths, they looked like so many "human catfish."



The "bathing spring" was close to the "drinking spring" and when a lot of lady guests went down to the "drinking spring" for their morning drink one day they were astonished and horrified to find sitting right in the middle of it "two old female lunatics from the sanitarium in their red bathing dresses, looking so innocent that the ladies laughed in spite of everything. Needless to say, they wouldn't drink the water.

In the October 24, 1878, issue of the same newspaper, another long letter signed "Invalid," appeared from Owotahox Springs, in which is described a device for artificial surf bathing. Water from the lake was piped into a large reservoir where it was mixed with hot water from the medical springs. This reservoir was about five hundred feet square. The bottom slanted down gradually from the level of the lawn in front of the hotel and was closely packed with white sand. In the center of the reservoir was a revolving wheel with three large churn-like flanges operated by the steam engine used in connection with the elevator. Every time the wheel revolved, three waves rolled up on the little beach and broke naturally. The escape water was used to turn a large water wheel which ran "four revolving rocking horses for the children and a swing." So much for "Oh What a Hoax."

During the time that the spa was declining as a health resort, the use of mineral waters in the United States for drinking purposes was increasing. In 1883 the estimated sales of such waters from 189 springs was 7,529,000 gallons valued at \$1,119,600. By 1888, sales had increased to 9,578,600 gallons, valued at \$1,679,000, from 491 springs. In 1900, the number of springs reporting was 491. These sold 45,276,000 gallons valued at \$5,791,000. In 1903, sales from 725 springs reported amounted to 40,107,000 gallons valued at \$6,788,000, and in 1905 there were 732 springs which reported 46,544,000 gallons valued at \$6,491,000.<sup>6</sup> In addition, mineral water imports into the United States from 1867 to 1901 increased in value from \$25,000 to \$744,000. During many years of this period, the U. S. Geological Survey, then in the Department of the Interior, published an annual report on the mineral springs of the United States giving locations, gallons of water sold, value, analyses, etc.

The term mineral water covered any natural water sold "still" or carbonated in bulk or packages for table or medicinal use. The degree of mineralization was not considered. In 1906, out of a total of 828 springs in the United States, 589 reported sales of 48,518,000 gallons valued at \$8,066,000. At this time the mineral water trade was a successful industry. Although the above gallonage is characterized as mineral water, most of it was sold for table use. Nevertheless, the mineral waters sold for medicinal purposes were widely advertised as cure-alls for many ailments. In fact they rivaled the wonderful, curative properties of the spring described by the Indians on the Island of Bimini, the fountain of perpetual youth, which Ponce de



Leon was supposed to be searching for in 1513 when he found the "island" of Florida. Some of the mineral waters, artificial or natural, were advertised to cure constipation, kidney, liver and stomach troubles, indigestion, gastritis, headaches, loss of appetite, rheumatism, etc., and the customer in one case was advised to "Drink from the Spring of Youth, Nature's Medical Remedy," a brand of bottled water found after an analysis to be more badly polluted than spigot water. Artificial waters made in a factory by adding a few mineral salts, and carbon dioxide to give it a sparkling effect, were labeled with illustrations of enticing maids carrying water from a gushing rock. Lithia waters in various instances contained no lithium. When they did, the amount was too small to produce a therapeutic effect. Some were recommended by the manufacturers for gout, dyspepsia, eczema, Bright's disease, gallstones, asthma, and to reduce fevers, and beautify the complexion.<sup>7</sup>

On March 2, 1898, a National Pure Food and Drug Congress was organized to obtain suitable national legislation to prevent the shocking state of food adulteration which Harvey W. Wiley, chief chemist of the United States Department of Agriculture, had found after his appointment in 1883. After much effort by Wiley, assisted by outside agencies, Congress passed a Pure Food and Drug Act which, after President Roosevelt's signature, became effective on January 1, 1907. The various states took similar action in order to prevent intrastate food and drug adulteration and misbranding. The balance of Wiley's life thereafter was devoted to writing and lecturing in the interest of pure foods. The 1907 law was a great blow to the mineral water humbug. Many cases of misbranding and adulteration were prosecuted.

The publicity attending these cases, the magazine articles, and the efforts of the American Medical Association among its own members to expose the mineral water frauds practiced upon the public put the use of mineral waters for the treatment of specific diseases in a place far below that which it formerly occupied in the mind of the public. The propaganda department of the Journal of the American Medical Association in 1918, in a pamphlet listing the notices of judgment obtained by federal courts against firms shipping mineral waters in interstate commerce, stated that "mineral waters possess no mysterious or occult virtues in the treatment of disease. No mineral water will be accepted by the medical profession for alleged medicinal properties supported only by testimonials from bucolic statesmen and romantic old ladies." The attitude of many during this time reminds one of the old English epitaph:

Here lays me and me three daughters  
All from drinking Shetland Waters.  
If we'd stuck to Epsom salts  
We wouldn't be here in these cold vaults.

This epitaph appeared over the years with slight variations, usually in the name of the waters causing the deaths, from "The Saturday Evening Post" of August 4, 1827, to the "Camden Democrat" (New Jersey) of March 21, 1874.

Although near 1900 the popularity of watering places in this country had waned, especially in the east, there were still many that retained their popularity years later, probably because of the attractions other than their waters. In 1913 Dr. Woods Hutchinson took a devastating blast at them, although he realized that the bath and spring habit was the precursor of the vacation habit and the custom of daily baths. He wrote, "The life that the fashionable invalid, the tired business man, lives at the springs is just as ridiculous, as abnormal and unwholesome as that which he lives at home, only in the opposite direction, so to speak. The fashionable invalid starves himself for a month in order to make up for a year's overgorging. The tired business man lives the intellectual life of a jelly-fish, with the social amusements of a hen, for five penitential weeks, in order to atone for the overdriving and overdissipating of the previous forty-seven." Then he goes back to his old habits with the belief that the "cure" will fix him up again next year. The best part of the cure was the water; any old water was good taken internally and externally, by the gallon, except when the heart or kidneys were broken down badly. This and pleasant surroundings, plenty of sleep, good and regular, moderate meals, were responsible for the "cures" and not the mineral salts and carbon dioxide of the water. In fact, the ordinary water that most people drank every day contained at least half and often two-thirds of the salts found in the most potent mineral water. Hutchinson said that only two kinds of mineral water existed so far as positive action was concerned, purgative and nonpurgative, and that renowned mineral waters were either "diluted sea-water or exaggerated well-water." Every one of them could be made at home from hydrant water, common salt, a little plaster from the wall to supply lime and plaster of Paris, and a few cents' worth of laxative such as Epsom salts. If sulphur was needed, one could strike an old-fashioned sulphur match and inhale the fumes while drinking the water. If hot sulphur spring water was needed, the water could be heated.<sup>8</sup>

Although Hutchinson wrote in 1913, years later, or about 1930, there were in the eastern United States alone, according to the Report of the Saratoga Springs Commission (Albany, 1930) nine spas comparable with the Saratoga Springs in the scope and character of their treatments. They represented a capital investment of \$20,000,000 and were visited by more than 450,000 persons. The number of treatments given was more than 1,000,000. The average expenditure per person at the spas was \$350, the total being \$157,150,000. At the same time 100,000 Americans who took the "cures" in Europe spent \$100,000,000.

## Attempt at Rebirth of the American Spa

After the State of New York in 1936 had completed its new Saratoga Spa which included a Research Institute, the first of its kind in this country, where research work in balneological therapy and the treatment of chronic diseases was to be conducted, a quickened interest in spas took place among certain agencies. In September, 1937, the American Congress of Physical Therapy at Cincinnati, Ohio, appointed a committee to assemble data on spas and health resorts of the United States. From a questionnaire sent to 152 resorts, replies were received from 70. The committee's report, made in 1938 to the Chicago session of the Congress, concluded that the causes for the decline of the American spas were economic factors, lack of interest on the part of physicians, unfounded claims of some spas, lack of medical supervision and of efforts to keep facilities modern. A committee authorized in 1938 by the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association established standards for the recognition of a health resort, designed to protect the public from unfounded claims. It was expected that American spas would come into favor again after World War II started and the Army and Navy took over some hotels and spas which were used as rehabilitation centers. Another stimulant which it was thought would result in bringing spas to the favorable attention of physicians and the public was the \$400,000 grant to Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons made by Bernard M. Baruch for a center of research and teaching in physical medicine, and other grants from \$100,000 to \$250,000 for research and teaching. Basic work was needed at the time on the physiology of the skin as an organ, on the physiologic effect of mineral waters, on the therapeutic effects of mineral waters, and related subjects. These were some of the recommendations made by a committee that surveyed the field of Hydrology and Health Resorts and which found that the disappearance of spa resorts had been due to their undefined status in relation to health and medical care; their failure to fulfill their mission, especially to large groups of patients; their attempt to combine pleasure with health procedures; the inability of private owners to finance resorts; the short season of the resorts, etc.<sup>9</sup> However, in spite of elaborate plans and some accomplishments in research, physicians and public alike remain unresponsive.

### FOOTNOTES TO CHAPTER XIX

1. Henry E. Sigerist, "American Spas in Historical Perspective," *Bull. Hist. Med.*, Vol. 11, 133-147, 1942.
2. Carl Bridenbaugh, "Baths and Watering Places of Colonial America," *William and Mary Quarterly*, April, 1946, pp. 151-181.
3. "Report of Committee on Sanitaria and on Mineral Springs," *Trans. Am. Med. Assoc.*, 31: 537-565, 1880.
4. "A Report on the Mineral Waters of the United States," *Medical Record*, June 15, 1889.



5. "Report of the Committee Upon Health Resorts," *Trans. Amer. Clim. Assoc.*, 1895, Vol. 11, 189-231; 1896, Vol. 12, 247-285.
6. Myron L. Fuller, "Mineral Waters," House Document, 59th Congress, 2nd Session, Washington, 1907; *Mineral Resources of the U. S. Calendar Year, 1905* (Washington, 1906).
7. Harvey W. Wiley and Anne Lewis Pierce, "The Mineral Water Humbug," *Good Housekeeping*, Vol. 59, 107-111, July, 1914.
8. Woods Hutchinson, "Taking the Waters, The Humbug of Hot Springs," *Everybody's Magazine*, Vol. 28, 159-172, February, 1913.
9. Henry E. Sigerist, "Towards a Renaissance of the American Spa," *Ciba Symposia*, Vol. VIII, 327-336, 1946.

## APPENDIX I

### The Schooley's Mountain Manufacturing Company

On February 27, 1838, the New Jersey Legislature gave its approval to the incorporation of the Schooley's Mountain Manufacturing Company, promoted by Ephraim Marsh, William N. Wood, Ira C. Whitehead, and John Marsh, as corporators. The purpose of this company was to mine and sell iron and other ores, to manufacture iron and other articles used in Morris County. The real estate to be purchased and held by the company was restricted to that owned by Ephraim Marsh and William Gibbons at or in the vicinity of Schooley's Mountain. William Gibbons, referred to elsewhere, lived in a mansion at Madison, New Jersey, and his property later became the site of Drew Theological Seminary. At one time he owned Belmont Hall. The capital of \$100,000 was to be raised by subscription in shares of \$100 each, and business operations were to start when capital stock to the amount of \$25,000 was subscribed and paid for. This plan for selling the properties of Ephraim Marsh and William Gibbons to the new company did not for one reason or another materialize.

Fifteen years after its passage, the 1838 act was supplemented by an amendment approved February-5, 1853. This made it lawful for the Schooley's Mountain Manufacturing Company to purchase such real estate as the directors of the company thought desirable and to build thereon "suitable houses for the accommodation of the public and persons in their employ." For this purpose they were empowered to raise by subscription the sum of \$150,000 to be divided into shares of \$10.00 in lieu of shares of \$100 each, as required in the original act. Apparently the company had in mind the building of an inn and houses for miners and other workers on their mine properties. They also could increase the amount of their capital from \$100,000 to \$150,000 and sell \$10.00 instead of \$100 shares, making things easier for small investors.

Fifteen years later, or in 1868, in another supplement to the 1838 act, it is stated that because of the deaths of corporators and other causes, the company had never organized under the original act. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the 1838 act and its 1853 and 1868 supplements, new corporators were appointed. These were William W. Marsh, son of Ephraim Marsh, deceased; Joseph Heath; Hampton O. Marsh, and William Dellicker. Under the supplement, the company was authorized to purchase or lease real estate in Morris,

Sussex, and Hunterdon counties. It is not known if this company actually engaged in business. Many companies incorporated by the Legislature never got started.

## APPENDIX II

### The Schooley's Mountain Turnpike Company

The Schooley's Mountain Turnpike Company was incorporated by the New Jersey Legislature on March 22, 1865. The capital stock was for \$3,000 with permission to increase it to \$5,000. Shares were \$10.00 each, and when 100 shares were subscribed for, the corporation was complete. The incorporators were William Dellicker, postmaster at Schooley's Mountain in 1844 and later,<sup>1</sup> who in 1836 and 1837 had been an assemblyman from Morris County; William W. Marsh, son of Ephraim Marsh; Jesse Hoffman; Joseph Heath, cousin of William W. Marsh; William McCracken; O. Latourette, of German Valley; Israel Sweasey, and Morris Dufford, most of them being residents of Schooley's Mountain. Subscribers could buy stock for a down payment of \$2.00 and the balance in installments, and upon request they had the right to pay the installments following the first one by working on the turnpike.

The company had the right "to construct and make a turnpike road from the bridge over the South Branch in German Valley, to the bridge over the Musconetcong, all in the county of Morris, which said turnpike road shall be constructed on and along the public highway leading from German Valley to Hackettstown, except in those places where the said public highway is not straight, then and in those places the said company shall have power to construct the said turnpike road where they may deem proper, and the width of said turnpike road shall be governed by the public road upon which it may be made." The owners of the lands over which the road was constructed were to be paid for damages to their property. The turnpike was to be at least thirty feet wide along the middle and at least fifteen feet were to be sufficiently bedded and faced with stone or gravel. No part of the road was to rise above an angle of six degrees with the plane of the horizon. Milestones were to be erected with the distance from German Valley marked on each one. After two consecutive miles of road had been completed a tollgate was to be erected and tolls were to be collected. The rates of toll per mile were to be as follows:

For every carriage, sleigh or sled drawn by	
! one beast .....	one cent
For every additional beast .....	one cent
For every horse and rider, or led horse or mule ....	five mills
For every dozen of calves, sheep or hogs .....	one cent



Persons going or coming from church on Sunday, or a funeral, or militia men going to or from training on a muster day were exempt from paying tolls. If the road was not started within three years and completed within five from the passage of the act, then the act was void.

Apparently the turnpike was not started within the specified three years from March 22, 1865, to March 22, 1868, because the 1865 act was amended on February 18, 1868, by a supplement which stated that if the road was not commenced within five years and completed within ten years from April 1, 1868, the act would be void. A provision was also included which did not require the turnpike company "to construct that part of the road lying between Belmont Hall on Schooley's Mountain and the south branch of the Raritan in German Valley unless the citizens living along that part of said road and in German Valley shall subscribe and pay in one-half of the capital authorized." Authorization for increased toll charges were also included in the 1868 act, the new rates being as follows:

For every carriage, sleigh or sled drawn by one horse .....	two cents per mile
For every additional beast .....	one cent extra per mile
For every horse and rider, or led horse or mule .....	one cent per mile
For every dozen calves, sheep or hogs .....	two cents per mile
For every dozen horses, mules or cattle ...	four cents per mile

In 1873 another supplement to the 1865 act was approved by the New Jersey Legislature on March 28. This amended the 1865 act by allowing the company to increase its capital stock to the amount of \$10,000. It also stated that if the road was not commenced within seven years and completed within ten years from April 1, 1868 the act would become void. This meant that the road would have to be started before April 1, 1875, and completed before April 1, 1878. Another provision stated that the road was to be so graded "that in its progress no part of said road shall rise above an angle of ten degrees with the plane of the horizon."

Although the turnpike company had until April 1, 1875 to start work, it took no chance on the 1865 act becoming void by that time by having the state legislature revive it in 1874. Apparently from the start many of the property owners along the proposed turnpike road did not look with favor upon the improvements proposed by the Marsh-Heath combination. The proprietor of Belmont Hall, the rival of the Heath House, was not included among the incorporators of the turnpike company, and from the wording of the 1868 amendment it is evident that little or no support was received from landowners along the road from Belmont Hall to German Valley, and the company was not required to construct that part of the road unless the landowners subscribed and paid in one-half of the authorized capital. The sug-

gested improvements in the road would have benefited the hotel owners in particular, and it is evident that this did not appeal to many of the citizens living along the eastern half of the road. It is not known what the Schooley's Mountain Turnpike Company did, if anything, after their company was revived in 1874.

#### FOOTNOTE TO APPENDIX II

1. Barber & Howe, *Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey* (Newark, 1844); Samuel Lloyd, *The New Jersey Annual Register for 1846* (Trenton, 1845).

### APPENDIX III

#### Owners of the Heath House Property

According to the Abstract of the Title of Jos. W. Ballentine and Abram L. Cross to thirty acres of land in Washington Township, Morris County, New Jersey, mortgaged to the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York to secure a loan of \$15,000, Joseph Colver and his wife deeded to Joseph Heath on May 22, 1799, thirty acres of land conveyed to him in two parcels, one for twenty acres on April 16, 1787, from Thomas Mill and wife, and one for ten acres conveyed to him on April 30, 1793, from Richard, John and Amos Mann. The May 22, 1799, deed from Joseph Colver and wife embraced 112 acres and 7 perches, and included the above mentioned thirty acres.

On January 18, 1821, Joseph Heath and wife deeded to Ephraim Marsh and Mary Heath twenty-six acres. Mary was a daughter of Joseph Heath. Joseph Heath died intestate and Ira C. Whitehead was appointed administrator on May 20, 1825, by the Orphans' Court.

On October 19, 1827, Ira C. Whitehead as administrator of Joseph Heath's estate deeded to Ephraim Marsh two tracts, the homestead farm and twenty acres formerly known as the Still House Lot tract.

On March 19, 1827, Edward Ward, sheriff, deeded to Ephraim Marsh eighty-one acres and three other tracts as the result of a judgment awarded by the Court of Common Pleas in a dispute between administrator Ira C. Whitehead and David Heath, "Jr.," in which David Heath, "Jr.," lost.

Mary Heath died about 1849, and she willed to her brother-in-law, Ephraim Marsh, her estate real and personal except for certain small bequests including one of \$2,000 to her sister Lavinia in case she survived her husband, Ephraim Marsh, the interest to be paid during her widowhood. If she died, the \$2,000 was to be divided between Lavinia's children. Ephraim Marsh was appointed sole executor. He held the property until his death. He left to his executors, William W. Marsh, John<sup>m</sup> Marsh and Theodore Little, the Heath House property with full power to sell or exchange. John Marsh, one of the executors, died before the time of the following conveyance.

William W. Marsh and Theodore Little, trustees, conveyed thirty-two acres (Heath House property) to William P. Condict. The deed was dated January 31, 1871. Consideration, \$50,000. Purchaser had right of access to the mineral spring and the use of the waters in common with the owners or proprietors of Belmont Hall. The grantee was to bear and to pay one-half of the expenses of repairing or rebuilding the springhouse. The road from Heath Cottage to the turnpike was not to be closed or obstructed. The supply of water for the laundry from a spring on William W. Marsh's lands was not to be interrupted until another supply had been found.

On April 1, 1871, William P. Condict and wife deeded to Jonathan Dickinson the premises in question. Consideration, \$51,000.

On August 2, 1871, Jonathan Dickinson and wife conveyed the property to Joseph W. Ballentine and Abram L. Cross. (Following this conveyance, Thomas H. Burke seems to have acquired some interest in the premises.) Consideration, \$55,650, subject to a mortgage of \$26,300 given by grantor to Condict.

On January 6, 1872, the Morris County Clerk, Richard Spar, certified that he had searched the record of deeds and mortgages recorded in the names of the following persons, for the periods mentioned.

Mary Heath, from January 1, 1840, to January 4, 1850.

Ephraim Marsh, from January 1, 1840, to October 1, 1864.

John Marsh, Ex., from September 1, 1864, to February 1, 1871.

William W. Marsh, Ex., from September 1, 1864, to February 1, 1871.

Theodore Little, Ex., from September 1, 1864 to February 1, 1871.

Jonathan Dickinson, from August 14, 1871, to August 18, 1871.

Joseph W. Ballentine, from August 2, 1871, to date.

Abram L. Cross, from August 2, 1871, to date.

For the past twenty years the county clerk could find no judgments, liens, mortgages, etc., against either Ballentine or Cross that were uncanceled. One of the items in Ephraim Marsh's will outlines the boundaries of the Heath House property.

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"I came like Water, and like Wind I go."

Omar Khayyam.





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